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OAS SECRETARY GENERAL ORFILA WOULD ACCEPT REELECTION

PA151211Y Paris AFP in Spanish 2308 GMT 14 Jun 78 PA

[Text] Mexico City, 14 Jun (AFP)--The OAS is a showcase of Latin America's indecision, OAS Secretary General Alejandro Orfila said here today. During a news conference granted 20 newswomen, Orfila talked about human rights, development, the role of the United States in the OAS, Cuba and his reelection.

With regard to human rights, Orfila said that the OAS could not do anything until its members submitted a proposal to this effect.

He said that regarding Cuba reentry to the OAS there has not yet been any initiative, but he did not discard the possibility that the issue will be submitted during the next OAS General Assembly.

When answering questions about development, Orfila said that since the Alliance for Progress in 1960 there has not been an adequate program. He said that talks are going on at the OAS to solve this situation and to create a plan which not only establishes development guidelines, but also improves living standards in the continent.

When asked about the role of the United States in the OAS, Orfila said that it was a member just like any other and that it is wrong to think that the OAS is the U.S. ministry of colonies.

Orfila also assailed U.S. foreign trade laws which he called discriminatory.

Regarding the election of the next OAS secretary genera, he recommended Jose de la Colina, Mexico's current ambassador to the OAS, as a man whom he said has good references and influence. When asked if he would agree to serve another term, Orfila said: "If I am nominated, I will not turn it down."

AMAZON PACT SIGNING SET FOR 3-4 JULY

PY142217Y Porto Alegre Radio Guaiba in Portuguese 2150 GMT 14 Jun 78 PY

[Text] Brasilia--Itamaraty released a note this afternoon confirming that meetings for the signing of the Amazon cooperation treaty will be held in Brasilia on 3 and 4 July. In addition to Foreign Minister Azeredo da Silveira, the meetings will be attended by the foreign ministers of Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru, Surinam and Venezuela.

ANDEAN PACT LABOR MINISTERS MEETING REVIEWED.

PY131414Y La Paz Radio Fides in Spanish 1130 GMT 13 Jun 78 PY

[Text] The Sixth Andean Pact Labor Ministers Conference, held in Ecuador 29 May-1 June, examined achievements under the Simon Rodriguez agreement of the Cartagena agreement, Labor Minister Vargas Salinas reported. He attended the meeting for Bolivia.

Vargas Salinas said achievements between the first conference and the fifth conference, held recently in Santa Cruz, were evaluated.

The ministers agreed to authorize the Simon Rodriguez coordination secretary to establish the basis for a system to support the activities of the organizations in the agreement and to strengthen cooperation with the international social security organization. It was also agreed to prepare an integrated technical cooperation plan to define the tasks of the Andean group, to avoid duplication of (?facilities) and activities.

The Andean commissions for professional training, social security and cooperativism will carry out activities under the responsibility of each government, which will appoint each executive secretary.

On the other hand, the coordination secretary, after consulting the governments of the area, will draw up regulations for the Andean commissions before the next ministers conference.

The Andean group ministers decided to approve establishment of the Andean Labor Commission in Quito, Ecuador, at the next conference.

Finally, the Andean Pact ministers conference agreed to ask the International Labor Organization for an updated report on the ratification of 25 international agrrements of that UN organization. Vargas Salinas said that the Simon Rodriguez agreement is being implemented in accordance with these agreements and with the integration process.

BRIEFS

CENTRAL AMERICAN TRADE--Benjamin Villanueva, Honduran finance minister and IDB governor for Honduras, has disclosed that Central American Common Market trade during 1977 amounted to $750 million in comparison with the almost $37 million in trade in 1971 when the market was established. [Guatemala City Radio Fabulosa Network in Spanish 1720 GMT 29 May 78 PA] [SERCANO Network]

NEW RADIO ORGANIZATION CREATED--Buenos Aires, 2 Jun--The Ibero-American Voice Broadcasting Organization [Organizacion Ibero-Americana De Radiodifusion Sonora], has been created in this city. The main objective of this organization, which groups representatives of over 150 Latin American and Spanish radio stations, is to increase cultural exchange and disseminate the traits and values of the various people of the continent. [Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2350 GMT 2 Jun 78 PY]

HERALD: GOVERNMENT CHANGES STORY ON DELGADO

PY152017Y Buenos Aires HERALD in English 15 Jun 78 p 1 PY

[Text] Julian Delgado, editor-director of the financial daily EL CRONISTA COMERCIAL and of the business weekly MERCADO, is still missing.

He was last seen by his family when he left his apartment to visit a psychiatrist on Sunday June 4 but his disappearance was only made public in a communique issued by his associate directors on Monday.

The HERALD's editor was called to Government House on Tuesday night and top government officials expressed displeasure about this newspaper's editorial about Delgado's disappearance published on Tuesday. The HERALD's editor was told that Delgado had been found dead in his car somewhere in the province of Buenos Aires and it was emphasized that the EL CRONISTA COMERCIAL editor-director was not the victim of political violence but had been mentally unwell.

Yesterday morning, however, the government said that the information given to the HERALD on Tuesday night was "inexact" and that Delgado had not been traced.

There was no further explanation of Delgado's disappearance and no clue to his whereabouts last night. A spokesman for EL CRONISTA COMERCIAL said that he could not give any more information about the missing editor-director, declining, even, to name the medical specialist that Delgado saw before he disappeared 11 days ago.

Rumours were flying like wildfire because of the mystery surrounding Delgado's disappearance. The government issued a short communique denying that he had been found dead in his car. But sources in the government insisted that Delgado had been ill and could be suffering from amnesia. The EL CRONISTA COMERCIAL spokesman refused to speculate. "Nothing can be ruled out. We just don't know," he said.

MONTES SAYS OAS SHOULD DISCUSS TERRORISM, HUMAN RIGHTS

PY160204Y Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2347 GMT 15 Jun 78 PY

[Text] Buenos Aires, 15 Jun--During a press conference today, Foreign Minister Vice Adm Oscar Antonio Montes announced that Argentina will propose that the subject of human rights be discussed together with terrorism during the Eighth General Assembly of the OAS which is to begin on Wednesday in Washington. The subject of human rights and economic affairs are among the most important in the coming OAS assembly.

Regarding the admission of Amnesty International as an observer at the meeting, Montes indicated that this organization will participate as a silent observer, as in the case of special guests, although he believes that its presence will not be important. Regarding the resolution which permitted its participation, he said that "our country's position was very clear because it cast one of the votes against its admission." Regarding other organizationswhich requested participation as observers, our country abstained from voting because it believes that this precedent cannot benefit the OAS very much.

Regarding economic matters, Argentina will continue to stress, as it has already to the OAS and the United Nations, the need to thoroughly study and implement a new international economic order.

Regarding informal meetings which could be held with other foreign ministers during his stay in Washington, the minister was emphatic in asserting that nothing has been organized with Brazil or Paraguay, although he admitted that the fact that all of them will be present at the OAS provides an opportunity to discuss various matters which affect the countries outside the framework of the OAS. He admitted that on this occasion there could be informal meetings with the member nations of the Ayacucho treaty--the so-called San Martinian and Bolivarian countries--"continuing the meeting held during the recent UN Conference on Disarmament at Venezuela's initiative."

Regarding this matter, he said that in view of the denuclearization of Latin America and our country's ratification of the Tlaltelolco treaty, Venezuela proposed studying the other aspect of disarmament--conventional weapons. At that time, it was agreed that the ambassadors to the United Nations would study the matter while the foreign ministries would study it more extensively before calling a formal foreign ministers meeting to sign an agreement.

He answered affirmatively when asked about the possibility that the Bolivian and Paraguayan presidents, Generals Hugo Banzer Suarez and Alfredo Stroessner, will visit the country. He indicated that these visits would not be official because they have been invited to see the final matches of the world football championship.

Regarding the championship, he said that this championship is showing a profit, not quantifiable but of importance, in terms of organization, development and the correct behavior of the Argentine population. Everything [words indistinct] giving a real image of the country, and the immediate benefits are going to be very important, he concluded.

SUBVERSIVES BROADCAST TV MESSAGE DURING MATCH

PY150427Y Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 0118 GMT 15 Jun 78 PY

[Text] Mar del Plata, 14 Jun--Television channel 10, which was broadcasting a soccer game between the Argentine and Polish teams, was interfered with tonight. While the sound was interrupted the image was not and a subversive communique was partially broadcast. The interference, which lasted for a few minutes, occurred during half time when the station was broadcasting commercials.

The subversive broadcast, which was probably made from a moving vehicle, elicited immediate action from security forces, but the results of this action are not known.

At the end of the game, two caravans of vehicles which crowded the streets to celebrate the victory of the Argentine team frustrated a search operation.

MASSERA MAY VISIT ROMANIA IN JULY

PY151410Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1618 GMT 13 Jun 78 PY

[Text] Buenos Aires, 13 Jun--It was reported here today that the commander of the Argentine Navy, Adm Emilio Massera, will go to Romania in July.

According to his report, which has not been confirmed yet, the trip would take place after the closing of the World cup soccer tournament and will be the first time any member of the Military Junta has visited a socialist country.

According to this report Massera will also visit Italy and other European countries, in addition to Romania.

INTERVENTOR CLAIMS YPF NOW PROFITABLE FIRM

PY1517342Y Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1535 GMT 14 Jun 78 PY

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 14 Jun--Government Oil Deposits (YPF) interventor Raul Ondarts announced today that the enterprise attained its highest level of production in its history in May, producing 71,600 cubic meters per day, and reported that the number of personnel has been reduced by 12,600 in 2 years to a total of 39,890 persons in May.

Raul Ondarts made these remarks at a downtown hotel where he spoke about the "YPF developments" during a meeting sponsored by the Buenos Aires Rotary Club.

Ondarts pointed out that the increase in production and the reduction in employees "is obviously reflected in the balances," and indicated that "YPF again has become a profitable enterprise." YPF losses were close to $400 million in 1975.

BRIEFS

NATIONALIST CHINESE DELEGATION--A delegation from the Nationalist China General Chamber of Commerce will arrive at Ezeiza airport on 10 June at 1615. It will be headed by the president of the Taipei Chamber of Commerce, Chi Sung-lin. The objective of the mission is to increase trade between China and our country and to reach closer ties with the Argentine Chamber of Commerce. The delegation is scheduled to leave on 12 June at 1945, and to continue on a tour through several Central and South American countries. [Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 9 Jun 78 PY]

AGREEMENT WITH BOLIVIA--Buenos Aires, 9 Jun--The Argentine Government has approved the agreement signed with Bolivia on 18 November 1977 to continue construction of the Santa Cruz-Trinidad Railroad Line. [Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1335 GMT 9 Jun 78 PY]

ADOLFO DIZ TO EUROPE--Adolfo Diz. president of the Argentine Central Bank, has left for Europe. At Basel Stadt in Switzerland, he will participate in the annual meeting of the International Bank of Adjustments. He will later go to Zurich, Frankfurt and London to hold meetings with state bank officials and members of commercial banks. [Text] [Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 8 Jun 78 PY]

NEW FACTORY SHIPS--The governor of Tierra del Fuego headed a ceremony during which the names and flags of two Spanish factory ships were changed. The factory ship Yeyo has been renamed API III and the factory ship Santo Domingo III has been renamed API IV. They will both now carry Argentine flags. These factory ships belong to the Antarctic Fishing Industry Enterprise, which has 40 percent Spanish capital and 60 percent Argentine capital. The ships can process 40 tons of fish daily and store 1,200 tons of processed fish. (Buenos Aires LA PRENSA in Spanish 22 May 78 p 11 PY]

BANZER FAVORS RESUMPTION OF RELATIONS WITH CHILE

PA160021Y Madrid EFE in Spanish 2339 GMT 15 Jun 78 PA

[Text] La Paz, 15 Jun (EFE)--President Hugo Banzer told Bolivian newspapers today that Bolivia is willing to resume diplomatic relations with Chile as long as its government demonstrates a willingness to negotiate a solution to Bolivia's landlocked situation. The Bolivian president referred to this probability during an informal news conference. He said that the negotiations must be based on a formula that does not imply the barter of land demanded by Chile.

Bolivia broke off diplomatic relations with Chile on 17 March after accusing the Chilean Government of not having fulfilled its commitment to solve the almost 100-year-old problem of being landlocked. The president said today that the resumption of relations is not an indispensable requirement for the discussion of the maritime problem. The Bolivian president once again reaffirmed that his government resorted to all possibilities to solve the problem of being landlocked, including a proposal to create a center of development to benefit Chile, Peru and Bolivia.

Nevertheless, he explained that in view of the proximity of the transfer of government to one which will be elected on 9 July, the decision to undertake new formulas for a solution to the landlocked situation will depend on the regime that will assume the administration of the country in August.

PDC CRITICIZES BANZER STAND ON ELECTIONS

PY160013Y La Paz Radio Panamerica in Spanish 1130 GMT 15 Jun 78 PY

[Text] Gen Hugo Banzer Suarez' statements are unfortunate and harmful to the present electoral process. They also compromise the armed forces, which have confirmed the cleanness of the democratization process.

These opinions were given by Benjamin Miguel Harb, leader of the Christian Democratic Party [PDC], when he was asked about rumors that the president is promoting continu of the military regime. The Banzer statements have led to reaction among various politicians. Most of them have rejected them as being openly partial toward the official candidacy.

In an interview, PDC leader Benjamin Miguel Harb said:

[begin recording] I truly regret the unfortunate statements made by President Banzer, because they ruin the democratizing process (?which) we were encouraging in an atmosphere of order and political competition. His statements contain some aspects which would lead all Bolivians to think that they contradict all earlier government propaganda. President Banzer's being in favor of the continuation of the regime depends on his personal and subjective situation, but this does not (?justify) his following statement in which he justifies all acts of violence which both civilian officials and officers are committing on behalf of the government to favor the official candidacy and the continuation of the regime. [end recording]

Miguel also stated that the government is giving carte blanche to violence and that the officials of the present system show partiality for a specific nomination, which he called aggression against political parties that want correct implementation of the electoral process. He was also asked about the Bolivian Socialist Falange [FSB] leader's announcement that the FSB would not participate in the 9 July elections.

[begin recording] If the statement made by Mario Gutierrez on what is happening in the country is true, we believe that the government is using these future elections to push us into an adventure, the result of which is unpredictable.

It is extraordinary and (?unbelievable) is that 1 million citizens have registered in a single day. It is clear that a Constituent Assembly is being prepared to change, or practically annul, the legislative branch, turning it into an unimportant appendix of the executive branch, as happens in all countries with totalitarian structures. There are countries where the legislative branch is made up of a single chamber, which meets only when the executive branch (?wants it to), without a right to reply, to control the actions of the executive branch or to draft laws. In a case like this, I think Gutierrez' statement deserves reflection, mainly reflection by the government. [end recording]

This leader also commented on the future of the PDC, which supports the Bernal Escalante-Di Natale ticket: We will do our best not to be forced to abstain.

[begin recording] The PDC is a democratic party and will make the necessary sacrifice to achieve a democratic structure in the country through a democratic game. What I can tell you is that we are making our best effort to maintain a democratic atmosphere in the country. [passage indistinct] [end recording]

Beginning today, the PDC leaders have begun to explain to party members and the people their plan for government. They intend to intensively push the country's integration and implement a plan for integral development.

PATINA AYOROA WITHDRAWS PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDACY

PY150410Y La Paz Radio Cruz del Sur Network in Spanish 2330 GMT 14 Jun 78 PY

[Excerpt] Col Jose Patino Ayoroa, presidential candidate in the coming 9 July elections, has withdrawn his candidacy and asked his followers to abstain.

(?In announcing his) withdrawal, Patino alleged that the military government sought to divide the opposition in order to help the official candidate. According to some people, Patino did not achieve greater support than [words indistinct] and observers said only a few large groups favored him.

NATIONAL ACTION MANDATE CANDIDATES WITHDRAW

PY151408Y La Paz Radio Panamericana Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 15 Jun 78 PY

[Excerpt] Gonzalo Romero, executive head of the National Action Mandate [Mandato de Accion Nacional--MAN] has denied any knowledge of the reasons for his nomination as vice presidential candidate to run with Luis Adolfo Siles Salinas.

He said that a few hours ago he sent a note to the National Electoral Court withdrawing his name from the alleged candidacy. Siles Salinas has done the same. Therefore, MAN is not participating in the current electoral process.

Gonzalo Romero has said that it is not his or his party's intention to participate in the electoral struggle, but that MAN rather intends to offer the country, as a political alternative, a real doctrinal proposal which seeks a center position instead of going one at either extreme.

VENEZUELAN EXPULSIONS NOT OFFICIALLY CONFIRMED

PY150431Y Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 13 Jun 78 p 9 PY

[Excerpts] Brasilia--The Brazilian Government has not yet been officially informed of the Venezuelan Government's intention to expel 75,000 Brazilians who are reportedly staying illegally in that country. Itamaraty, which has been following the issue through the press, believes that thus far the issues involves nothing more than the mere declaration of an intention which has not yet been implemented.

Itamaraty does not even know the approximate number of Brazilians who are living in neighboring countries. According to other sources, there are approximately 1 million.

According to Brazilian diplomats, Itamaraty could not do anything to prevent the Venezuelan Government from implementing its intention, if the expulsions are made pursuant to the law. The only action the Brazilian Embassy could take would be to guarantee the safety of those involved.

Based on the fact that this would not be the first time the Venezuelan Government had decided to expel Brazilian citizens, it is believed in diplomatic circles that this action would not create friction in Brazilian-Venezuelan relations.

Similar problems occur every year at the Brazilian-Venezuelan borderline, in view of the difficulty to guard effectively the vast hinterland of rivers and jungles which encourages illegal entries on both sides.

The Venezuelan Embassy reported yesterday that it had no information regarding the imminent expulsion of 75,000 Brazilians who are staying illegally in Venezuela. A source at the embassy acknowledged that the problem exists, but noted that it is not as acute as that involving Colombian citizens since there are approximately 1 million Colombians staying illegally in Venezuelan territory.

ARMY INTERVENTION TO CONTROL SWINE HERDS REQUESTED

PY151452Y Porto Alegre Radio Guaiba in Portuguese 0200 GMT 15 Jun 78 PY

[Text] Belo Horizonte--Troops of the 4th Army Division may control the Minas Gerais-Rio de Janeiro State border beginning tomorrow to hinder the Rio de Janeiro swine producers from illegally taking their animals to Minas Gerais farms. The authorities have ordered the slaughter of all swine herds in Rio de Janeiro State.

(Aurice de Alves Moreira), agriculture federal delegate, has requested Agriculture Minister Alysson Paulinelli and Army Minister Belfort Bethlem to order the intervention of the army.

FORMER NAZI FRANZ WAGNER ATTEMPTS SUICIDE

PY131538Y Sao Paulo Cadeia Verde Amarela in Portuguese 1000 GMT 13 Jun 78 PY

[Text] Former Nazi Gustav Franz Wagner attempted suicide in the headquarters of the Federal Police Superintendence in Brasilia. He smashed his glasses with his shoes and then tried to swallow the broken glass, but was stopped by a policeman who was nearby. Wagner is now under medical care and constant surveillance.

CHILE REPORTEDLY CLAIMS EAST MAGELLAN MOUTH

PY152014Y Buenos Aires HERALD in English 15 Jun 78 p 11 PY

[Excerpts] Unconfirmed reports yesterday maintained that the Chilean Ministry of Foreign Affairs has written a note to the Argentine Government claiming sovereignty over the eastern mouth of the Magellan Strait.

A NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS news cable yesterday reported that the Chileans have requested Argentina to include talks on the eastern mouth of the strait in the negotiations already under way on the border dispute in the Beagle Channel area.

But NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS says in its cable that Artentina's ambassador to Chile has informed Argentina that the Chilean Government intends denying the existence of the note.

The private news agency says that the Argentine Foreign Ministry has refused to comment on the note so as not to upset the negotiations of the joint committee under way in Santiago.

PINOCHET SAYS GOVERNMENT IS 'FIRMLY UNITED'

PY160129Y Santiago Chile Domestic Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 15 Jun 78 PY

[Text] Referring to rumors of division, President Augusto Pinochet stated today that his government is firm and will continue united. He termed the rumors absolutely false and biased. President Pinochet also made some important announcements at noon today.

He said that his government is and will continue firmly united. He also said that the armed forces are perfectly united around the government.

He announced that the government is studying the reimbursement of 20 percent of pension and retirement payments--5 percent every 6 months beginning the second half of the current year.

Pinochet made his announcements while presiding over the opening ceremony for the 1978 (?congress) of retired members of the armed forces, which took place this morning in Room 8 at Government Palace. Present at the ceremony were Defense Minister Gen Cesar Raul Benavides and representatives of [words indistinct].

(Osvaldo Vaiqui), president of the Confederation of Retired Members of the Armed Forces, referred to welfare problems, reiterated support for the government and repudiated the ideas included in the (10) June editorial of the U.S. newspaper Washington POST.

President Pinochet also referred to the campaign against Chile being carried out by a small group of well-placed persons. [passage indistinct]

The president urged the retired representatives of the armed forces to fight this campaign with his support and to try to reach the very roots of these rumors.

[begin Pinochet recording] I tell you that the government will remain firm and will follow the paths outlined by the new constitutionality, because the armed forces are perfectly united. You know very well that [words indistinct]. [end recording]

The chief of state also indicated that the Chilean Government is working honorably and there is no reason to bother with these rumors.

[Begin Pinochet recording] My government is acting and working honorably and is doing everything patriotically, and there is no reason to bother with this campaign, because the citizenry supports the government. [passage indistinct] [end recording]

AFP Report

PY151905Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1743 GMT 15 Jun 78 PY

[Text] Santiago, 15 Jun--Chilean President Gen Augusto Pinochet affirmed today that the rumors stating that he was leaving the military government are not true.

The military government is strong, is working and is acting because the people are supporting it, stated Pinochet.

PDC ANSWERS CHARGES ON WASHINGTON POST EDITORIAL

PY160009Y Santiago Chile Radio Mineria Network in Spanish 1030 GMT 15 Jun 78 PY

[Undated statement issued by the Christian Democratic Party--PDC--in Santiago]

[Text] In view of an editorial published in the U.S. newspaper Washington POST, the extreme right has unleashed a violent campaign over radio, television and press, trying to blame the PDC for publication of the editorial. This requires the following explanation:

1. In today's world, there are newspapers of various leanings which remark on the internal affairs of all countries without exception. Government officials and press comment have sensibly recognized this fact. The PDC has never resorted to international forums to convey its views on the internal situation, even in cases when it has been denied the chance to express its ideas within its own country.

2. We categorically reject charges that the PDC chooses other ways to elect government officials. This is the free and sovereign right of the Chilean people, without foreign influence or involvement.

3. This campaign, using the most cunning procedures, tends to divide Chileans even more, in circumstances which are extremely serious for the country, and to conceal behind a smokescreen events which weigh down on the government and which have originated abroad. Considering that serious national security problems are involved, it is unacceptable for these events to be used for political effect.

4. Instead of false charges against the PDC, which throughout its history was clearly been independent in defending the public good against foreign interests, an answer should be given to the serious questions presented to the people regarding the international situation and charges against persons with government responsibilities.

5. In a situation like this, truth and the country's highest interest are all-important. We therefore place these values above all personal or party aspirations, and those who really want to serve Chile must submit to the truth without exception.

MINISTRY COMMENTS ON POLICE LIST OF MISSING

PY160305Y Paris AFP in Spanish 0131 GMT 15 Jun 78 PY

[Excerpt] Santiago, 14 Jun--The Interior Ministry made it clear today that a police report on the situation of more than 200 missing Chileans does not deal with the cases denounced by relatives.

In a communique released tonight, Interior Under Secretary Commander Enrique Montero stated that the persons located by the Chilean police are not on the list delivered to the government.

This list contains more than 600 names of citizens who, according to their relatives, disappeared after being detained or kidnaped during the last 4 years.

GOVERNMENT REPORTS 'NO RECORD' ON MISSING

PY160329Y Paris AFP in Spanish 0218 GMT 16 Jun 78 PY

[Excerpts] Santiago, Chile, 15 Jun--The Chilean military government reported tonight that it has no record of the detention of more than 600 persons who have disappeared since the state of siege was in effect. Interior Minister Sergio Fernandez admitted, however, that they may have been killed in clashes with security forces.

The latest disappearances denounced by relatives and by the Catholic Church through its vicariate of solidarity took place toward the end of last year.

Fernandez, head of President Augusto Pinochet's Cabinet, asserted tonight that the government cannot be charged with this responsibility, although he confirmed that it is well disposed toward exploring any serious path to investigate specific cases.

He added: "The government will also issue the appropriate statutes to provide solutions to the legal or property problems of the relatives of the allegedly missing persons."

In contrast to this situation, the minister indicated that casualties among enlisted men during the past few years total more than 500, and he paid homage to the dead. He said that those men are not included in the lists of any humanitarian campaign or international organization.

BRIEFS

BRAZILIAN TRADE--Santiago, Chile, 3 Jun--According to a report released by the Chilean-Brazilian Chamber of Commerce, trade between these two countries amounted to $380 million in 1977. The trade balance was favorable to Chile. [Santiago Chile Radio Mineria Network in Spanish 1030 GMT 3 Jun 78 PY]

DELEGATE TO ILO APPOINTED--Santiago, 3 Jun--(Nicolas Abumor), vice president of the Industrial Development Association, has been appointed delegate to the ILO meeting which will be held in Geneva on 5 July. [Santiago Chile Radio Mineria Network in Spanish 1030 GMT 3 Jun 78 PY]

EXPORT-IMPORT FIGURES--Up to 2 June Chile had exported a total of $1.01 billion. Imports during this same period amounted to $959 million and currency returns amounted to $956 million. [Text] [Santiago Chile Radio Mineria Network in Spanish 1030 GMT 14 Jun 78 PY]

14 FREED FROM EMBOSCADA, INCLUDING HUNGER STRIKERS

PY160219Y Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 15 Jun 78 p 8 PY

[Text] Reliable sources have indicated that a group of persons was set free during the past few hours at Emboscada prison.

It was asserted that among the group were five Chaco war veterans who, according to a spokesman of the Radical Liberal Party, had been on a hunger strike seeking their freedom.

Regarding this report, ULTIMA HORA has been informed that 14 perople were set free, including three women.

Church sources have also indicated that early this morning the Asuncion archbishop himself, Msgr Ismael Rolon, expressed his interest in the situation of the prisoners, especially those on hunger strike, and that he was ready to contact the highest government officials to discuss the problem with them. But this was not possible since that group was set free very early today.

ABC COLOR DENOUNCES PROPOSED BILL

PY142330Y Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 13 Jun 78 p 12 PY

[Editorial: "Giving Weapons to Those Who Attack Us"]

[Text] Concerned over the lack of clarity in the last part of Article 34 of the Constitution ("citizenship is withdrawn....for accepting a subsidy or pensions which may involve submission to that government--a foreign government), a group of 10 government deputies have presented a bill which, according to them, seeks to "clearly define what kind of subsidy or pension may be defined as submission by a citizen to the dictates of a foreign government."

Considering the stated intention of the bill, it is appropriate to say that, as of now, the proposed measures have completely moved away from that objective. Just by one reading, one can observe that indeed none of the three clauses of Article 3 of the bill refers to a condition which may necessarily presuppose a "submission of a (Paraguayan) citizen to the dictates of a foreign government."

To show this, it is enough to mention the cases provided for in that article. Clause 1 only deals with those who "traveling abroad at the invitation of foreign governments or organizations make remarks which may discredit the nation or the people." Clause 2 deals with those who "aided through scholarships, subsidies or any other aid from foreign governments or official, semi-official or private organizations should organize activities which harm or could harm the prestige or the moral or material patrimony of the nation." Finally, Clause 3 deals with those who "aided by subsidies of any kind, and with a view to struggle against the free and democratic regime of the country, take advantage of it to incite and engage in arbitrary or violent actions against the institutions, seeking to maliciously disparage them by broadcasting false or distorted facts with full knowledge of their distorted nature."

As we can clearly see from the above quotes, none of the regulations proposed by the draft bill is based on the "submission" of a Paraguayan citizen to a foreign government in return for a subsidy received from the latter, something which must be fully proven to deserve the punishment established by the Constitution.

The draft bill can be objected to on other grounds as well. Article 1, which the proponents of the draft bill consider necessary in order to "clearly establish that every citizen has absolute freedom to go abroad," is unnecessary because Article 56 of the constitution clearly acknowledges this right, not only to the citizens of the country but to all its inhabitants. However, since Article 1 of the draft bill does not really deal with the freedom to travel abroad, but with the freedom to "accept and use all kinds of subsidies granted by democratic governments or international cooperation organization of which the current government is a member," it must be pointed out--in addition to the fact that the text of the draft law is not in line with the overt intentions of the proponents--that it is dangerous. Who is to say whether a given foreign government is "democratic" or not? Who can guarantee that an originally democratic government remains this way? What should be done with regard to scholarships granted by national or private organizations of a friendly country? What is the programmatic meaning of this draft bill and what is its aim? These are only some of the questions which this draft bill has aroused.

As to Article 2 of this draft bill--even though it does not mention any punishment so far--it is inadmissible because it demands "a behaviour in line with the level of culture of the Paraguayan people." This sentence reminds us of the "healthy feelings of the people" used by the German penal code under the Nazi regime in order to create all kinds of blank laws.

Thus, we are dealing with a draft law which is not only mistaken in its basic objectives but also full of peril.

However, in addition to the legal objections--of which we could mention a few more--there are other kinds of criticisms which could be made about this draft bill. It is difficult to believe that any single citizen, with or without subsidies or pensions from foreign governments or organizations could--even if he wanted to--truly damage the image of the country, or the credit rating or the prestige of its institutions, as long as the credit rating or prestige is solidly based and as long as those who make the evaluation of the charges do it rationally.

On the other hand, a draft bill such as the one proposed will no doubt end by harming the international image of the country. At the very moment when it is facing strong criticism, this draft bill will only add more fuel to the fire by giving weapons to those attacking us.

CHILEAN FOREIGN MINISTER ARRIVES FOR VISIT

PY152210Y Lima Domestic Service in Spanish 0300 GMT 15 Jun 78 PY

[Text] Peru and Chile have achieved a special rapprochement on the basis of a permanent, frank and open dialog, but there is an awareness in the two countries that it is not enough to coexist with a very good friendship and progress. The time has come for effective and practical cooperation.

This was said by Chilean Foreign Minister Hernan Cubillos, who arrived today in this capital for a 3-day visit.

During a reception given in his honor tonight by Foreign Minister de la Puente Radbill at the Foreign Ministry, Cubillos declared that he was satisfied with the excellent level which Peruvian-Chilean relations have reached and about the real purpose of the two governments in seeking and adopting all measures which will achieve improved integration.

He said that the Peruvian-Chilean link goes back to the days of the Empire of the Incas; it was reaffirmed during the (?time) of the colony; and was further strengthened during the glorious days of the struggle for independence and continues to the present time.

The Chilean foreign minister said that during the last few years, due to the higher inspirations of the presidents of the two countries, Chile and Peru have become much closer on the basis of a permanent, frank and open dialog.

He added that what is now most necessary and urgent is the integration, as soon as possible, of the Latin American countries, especially those such as Chile and Peru which are linked by the most (?lasting) spiritual and material links.

(?This) visit allows me to bring a most cordial and affectionate message for the Peruvian people from the Chilean people and to make progress along the path of bilateral cooperation. There is a common destiny awaiting us and it is our obligation to achieve it, he indicated.

On his arrival today at the Jorge Chavez International Airport, the Chilean foreign minister was given President Morales Bermudez's cordial welcome by (?Aide) (Hernado Carpareto Alvarado).

The Chilean minister indicated that he had come to Peru to strengthen Peruvian-Chilean links of friendship through an overall dialog regarding matters of bilateral interest. He said that there is no specific matter on the agenda, but there would be talks about all matters of mutual interest.

Gen Guillermo Arbulu Galliani, Peruvian ambassador to Chile, termed the Chilean foreign minister's official visit very important. The ambassador said that Peruvian-Chilean relations will be strengthened by this visit and the high level talks which Cubillos will hold there.

De la Puente Stresses Cooperation

PY152340Y Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 15 Jun 78 PY

[Excerpts] Peruvian [Foreign] Minister Jose de la Puente emphasized last night that Peru and Chile are called upon to seek the common denominator of cooperation and friendship on the permanent basis of their bilateral relations.

This remark was made after [Chilean Foreign] Minister Cubillos indicated that the rumors of those who, actively or passively, are seeking to revive old distrust between two countries, which (?only desire to follow the same path), are rejected with his visit.

Regarding De La Puente's answer, he then added: We have to build our common future with inflexible persistence, clear up mistrust, straighten out disagreement and show the generosity of justice and peace to each other for common tasks.

Meets Morales Bermudez

PY160223Y Lima Radio Union in Spanish 0100 GMT 16 Jun 78 PY

[Text] President Morales Bermudez today emphasized our policy of very direct relations with Latin American countries, especially with neighboring countries such as Chile, with which we have common interests for very close cooperation.

This was said during the cordial meeting he had with Chilean Foreign Minister Hernan Cubillos at Government House.

The president said that, within the framework of this policy, the visit of the Chilean foreign minister will allow reciprocal friendship beween Peru and Chile to be consolidated and will establish an extensive field for mutual cooperation.

The Chilean minister indicated that President Augusto Pinochet sent an affectionate embrace and very warm greeting to his Peruvian colleague. He said that he had come to Peru, his first official mission outside Chile, with the purpose of helping to strengthen the very strong ties between the two nations.

MINISTER RECEIVES JAPAN, BULGARIA ENVOYS

PY152109Y Lima Domestic Service in Spanish 0300 GMT 15 Jun 78 PY

[Text] Interior Minister Gen Fernando Velit received today the protocol greetings of the ambassadors of Japan and Bulgaria. During the meetings the ties of friendship and fraternity which unite Peru with Japan and Bulgaria were stressed. The interior minister was very pleased with the visit of the two diplomats, who each promised their efforts and good will to strengthen relations with Peru.

BRIEFS

AEROPERU TO QUITO--The state-owned Aeroperu Airline will expand its international flights to include Quito as of this Friday. The inaugural flight to Quito will leave Lima at 1500 on Friday, 9 June. [Lima Radio Cronica in Spanish 1155 GMT 6 Jun 78 PY]

IMF, IBRD GOVERNORS APPOINTED--Economy and Finance Minister Javier Silva Ruete has been appointed Peruvian goernor to [IBRD] and the International Development Bank [IDB]. At the same time, Manuel Moreira Loredo, president of the Peruvian Central Reserve Bank, has been appointed Peruvian representative to the International Monetary Fund [IMF]. [Lima Radio Cronica in Spanish 1155 GMT 6 Jun 78 PY]

PRESIDENT REAFFIRMS SUPPORT FOR PANAMA ON CANAL ISSUE

PY151404Y Mexico City International Service in Spanish 0300 GMT 15 Jun 78 PA

[Text] Mexican President Jose Lopez-Portillo said today in Mexico City that to support Panama is to affirm the peaceful path as the proper one for resolving conflicts on our continent. It reflects our belief in independence based on self-determination and non-intervention, he said.

In requesting authorization to travel to Panama from the permanent commission of our government, the Mexican chief executive said that Mexico has always given its most frank support to the Panamanian people in their stubborn struggle for the full exercise of their sovereignty throughout their national territory, which encompasses the interoceanic canal.

President Lopez-Portillo will attend the exchange of instruments of ratification of the Panama Canal treaty in response to an invitation extended by Panamanian Chief of Government Gen Omar Torrijos.

We have always insisted that the solution to the Panama Canal conflict should be reached by the peaceful path and with the recognition of the legitimate rights of the Panamanian people. This position, which was invariably maintained by the revolutionary governments which preceded mine, the president of Mexico said, has been strictly continued by my government. He added: From the first days of my term, I signed a letter--along with other Latin American chiefs of state--to President James Carter, in which we congratulated him on his new publicly expressed willingness to resolve this problem and in which we outlined the aforementioned concepts.

Later, the president said, I was invited by Gen Omar Torrijos, chief of government of the Republic of Panama, to attend a meeting of chiefs of state and of government in Bogota, Colombia, to learn what progress had been made in his negotiations with the United States of North America. At that meeting, I said that Mexico offered all its support to Panama in its struggle for full sovereignty over all its territory, the Mexican chief of state said in closing.

On the other hand, Mexican Foreign Minister Santiago Roel said that President Lopez-Portillo's trip to Panama represents the continuing support of our country to the Panamanian people in their struggle to recover their sovereignty.

In a news conference, Santiago Roel said that the presidents of Costa Rica, Colombia, Venezuela, Jamaica, the United States of North America and Mexico will attend the exchange of ratifications ceremony, which will be held at the Nuevo Panama Gymnasium, on Friday at 1600 Panama time.

BRIEFS

AMBASSADOR'S RESIGNATION--Mexico City, 1 Jun (LATIN)--Mexican Ambassador to Brazil Leon Alberto Garcia has resigned from the post he held for approximately 2 years, it was officially announced here. A Mexican Foreign Ministry spokesman said the ambassador resigned for "purely personal reasons." [Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 2011 GMT 1 Jun 78 PA]

EVERYTHING READY FOR ARRIVAL OF CARTER, L.A. PRESIDENTS

PA151501Y Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1430 GMT 15 Jun 78 PA

[Text] Panama City--A spokesman of the Panamanian Government this morning said that the government is in full control of public order on the eve of the arrival of the presidents of Colombia, Mexico, Venezuela, Costa Rica and the United States.

The guarantee that the chiefs of state will be able to conduct their activities at the ceremony for the exchange of the ratification documents of the new treaties was made after the city of Panama was shaken last night by violent disturbances that resulted in the death of one student and the closing of the educational centers here.

A special security program scheduled to enter into full operation tomorrow morning was implemented today in view of the conflict that appears to be promoted by dissatisfied groups and the presence here of former President Arnulfo Arias, who has engaged in intense opposition activity against the government of Gen Omar Torrijos Herrera.

THREE OPPOSITION PARTIES NOT TO ATTEND TREATY CEREMONIES

PA152300Y Caracas Radio Continente Network in Spanish 2050 GMT 15 Jun 78 PA

[Report by Freddy Baptista from Panama City--presumably recorded]

[Text] The Social Democratic Party, the Christian Democratic Party and the Panamenist Party of former President Arnulfo Arias will not attend any of the ceremonies which the government programmed for the exchange of notes concerning the Panama Canal treaties. The scoop was given by Social Democratic Party President Alvin Weeden, who spoke on behalf of the three parties.

The leaders of the three parties have labeled Gen Omar Torrijos Herrera's government a dictatorship and so they will not participate in the ceremonies planned on the occasion of the visit by President Carter and five Latin American chiefs of state.

The widow of Leopoldo Aragon, the Panamanian who immolated himself on 5 September in Stockholm to protest the Panama Canal treaties, was forbidden to enter the country and was expelled to Mexico. It was also reported that another student who participated in the disturbances at the University of Panama has died.

In the meantime, everything is ready in Panama City to receive the five Latin American chiefs of state and U.S. President Jimmy Carter for the historic exchange of notes on the Panama Canal treaties.

PLANNED DEMONSTRATION CANCELED; REPORT ON FINAL PREPARATIONS

PA160322Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0120 GMT 16 Jun 78 PA

[Excerpts] Panama City, 15 June (ACAN-EFE)--With less than 24 hours before the arrival of the President of the United States in Panama, the deaths of two students in a clash at the university between groups in favor of the treaties and those opposed to it weighs heavily over the country.

A demonstration planned for this afternoon to honor Panamanian Leopoldo Aragon, who set himself on fire in Stockholm in September last year to protest the Torrijos-Carter treaties, has been suspended.

Meanwhile, the government is carrying out a propaganda campaign to make the presidents' meeting a success. Though this was not the objective, the crowd that gathers Friday around Carter, Torrijos and five other heads of state will be a test of power for the Torrijos Regime because of the country's present situation.

A group called the "Friends of Leopoldo Aragon" issued a communique this afternoon to protest against the arrest and expulsion of the widow and daughter of Leopoldo Aragon, the Panamanian who 9 months ago immolated himself in Stockholm.

On the other hand, the progovernment Federation of Panamanian Students (FEP), which split with the Communist Party, issued a communique asking the people to go to the 5th of May Plaza to welcome Carter and Torrijos. However, FEP indicated that the movement was against Yankee imperialism.

In the meantime, crews of workers were hurriedly working this afternoon at the 5th of May Plaza to finish the stand for Friday's rally. Loudspeakers carried patriotic songs and marches while the people watched workers give the final touches to the stand, which apparently was designed by a security expert. The stand looks like a bunker. Omar Torrijos and Jimmy Carter will address the people from the top of a cement block.

UNIVERSITY INCIDENTS WILL NOT MAR TREATY CEREMONIES

PA151750Y Panama City Circuito RPC in Spanish 1720 GMT 15 Jun 78 PA

[SERCANO Network]

[Excerpt] The final details of the welcome ceremonies for Presidents Carter, Carazo, Lopez-Michelsen, Perez and Lopez-Portillo and Prime Minister Manley were coordinated this morning. It was stressed that all ceremonies will be identical and very brief.

It was also indicated that last night's painful events, during which 2 students died in clashes between rival groups--one on each side--at the law school were an isolated event involving only a handful of students and that this will not affect the celebration of the historical event.

CHRISTIAN MOVEMENT ENDS CHURCH OCCUPATION PEACEFULLY

PA152349Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2327 GMT 15 Jun 78 PA

[Text] Panama City, 15 Jun (ACAN-EFE)--A dozen young members of the self-styled Independent Christian Movement, who peacefully occupied the (Catholic) church of El Carmen on the outskirts of this capital yesterday to protest the Torrijos-Carter treaties and Carter's visit to Panama, abandoned the church building today.

Carter will visit Panama tomorrow, Friday the 16th, to exchange with Panamanian Chief of Government Gen Omar Torrijos the instruments of ratification of the new canal treaties.

The protesters left at 1222 (1722 GMT) after reaching an agreement with Archbishop Marcos Gregorio McGrath and the national guardsmen who were stationed outside the church.

McGrath served as representative of the young people, who told him they would leave if the National Guard did not arrest or beat them.

Lieutenant Herrera, in charge of the troops watching over the demonstrators, accepted McGrath's proposal and the group of protesters left the area without any problem.

Yesterday, an hour after the church was occupied, the Panamanian National Guard intervened and urged the Christians to stop what they were doing. However, it never resorted to violence to disband the demonstrators.

STUDENT VIOLENCE MAY SPREAD DUE TO PLANNED VENDETTA

PA151854Y Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 1800 GMT 15 Jun 78 PA

[Excerpt] Even though the university has closed its doors and is surrounded by national guardsmen wearing campaign uniforms and carrying combat gear, there is the danger that violence will continue to spread among members of the involved political groups in the form of a vendetta since the friends, classmates and relatives of the dead announced such plans at the hospital when they learned about the condition of the victims.

POPULAR POWER BLAMES 'FASCIST' ARIAS FOR UNIVERSITY INCIDENTS

PA151832Y Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1710 GMT 15 Jun 78 PA

["The Response of the Popular Power to Recent Developments"--read by Danilo Caballero]

[Text] Listeners: This is the response of the popular power [Assembly of Corregimiento Representatives] to recent developments. The revolutionary government has made efforts to achieve harmony in the Panamian family in every respect. The students have had every opportunity to air their views without restrictions, despite the fact that some sectors of the student body have accused the revolutionary government of being dictatorial and intolerant.

The government has also allowed those in exile--either voluntarily or on government orders to insure peace in the country--to rejoin their families here. This noble gesture of human understanding by the revolutionary government appears to have been mistakenly interpreted by the opposition as a sign of weakness. But they are wrong to have placed themselves outside the law in attempts to disrupt public order because the revolutionary process has the support of the majority of the Panamanian people, which will prevent the feverish dreams of the regime's opponents from becoming a reality.

This statement is not meant to be a threat, it is merely a warning to those who have adopted such a position so that they may fully realize the consequences of disrupting order in an effort to halt the revolutionary process.

Our repeated claims that fascism means blood, violence, destruction and disregard for human dignity were not merely whimsical statements, but were based on historical evidence. Every time fascist Arnulfo Arias has intervened in national politics, his actions have brought mourning and sorrow to Panamanian homes because Dr Arias is a symbol of violence and lack of respect for human life. Today we must regret the incidents that took place last night at the national university, where opposing groups engaged in a violent clash in which gunshot was the language heard in the darkness surrounding the university buildings.

Those who fell last night, aroused and encouraged by the return of fascist Arnulfo Arias, believed the time had arrived for subversion and attacks, creating a situation that has brought sorrow to some Panamanian families today because their beloved children, who had left for the university with a smile on their face, shall never return.

We feel it necessary to point out that the national government is morally committed to investigate the incidents of last night and to take stern measures to make sure such incidents are not repeated. These measures will probably be criticized and arouse claims about a lack of freedom, but nobody can claim freedom to destroy young lives in the name of movements that represent retrogression in the history of our nation.

Measures must be adopted to clarify the facts and identify those truly responsible for this situation. The youths who fell last night clamor for justice. Whether mistaken or not in their political views, they represented hope for the country; and a promise ended overnight as a result of the emotions stirred in some youths by the presence of fascist leader Armulfo Arias.

With these incidents, the Panamanian oligarchy and fascist Armulfo Arias finally achieved what they had long been seeking: a martyr to hold up in opposition to the revolutionary process. Their thirst for a victim, however, was not satisfied in the manner they desired--that the martyr be the victim of National Guard action. Instead, they will now voice their accusations against the national university and the revolutionary leadership in their efforts to blame the incidents at the national university on the revolutionary process.

Let this occasion serve as a clear warning to those who think they can subvert the constitutional order to satisfy the dastardly interests of the reactionary sectors of this country--with the acquiesence of the most reactionary sectors of the United States--that the Panamanian people will not permit them to realize their excessive ambitions. They shall find a firm popular-government unity to put a permanent stop to those who try to halt the revolutionary process.

The above was the response of the popular power to the recent developments in our country.

EDUCATION MINISTER ROYO ADDRESSES NATION ON STUDENT CLASHES

PA151332Y Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1221 GMT 15 Jun 78 PA

[Speech to nation by Panamanian Education Minister Aristides Royo from Radio Libertad studios in Panama City--live]

[Text] In this country, in which there is great freedom of expression at all levels, in which demonstrations of various types occur--political demonstrations, student demonstrations in which students stage strikes, rallies, stoppages--generally these activities have all been characterized by a peaceful atmosphere. Although on many occasions there have been attempts at open provocation, the great responsibility of the National Guard and the great serenity and responsibility of the Panamanian people have prevented these incidents from leading to unforeseeable and undesirable--although on some occasions desired and sought--consequences.

Last night at Panama university some incidents occurred which we will discuss later. But we do want to note that, in the past 2 months, student strife and disagreement between factions, which are traditional and historic within the Panamanian student body, has been marked by violence; there has been an aggravation of the situation which we will also subsequently discuss. It is a situation which does not really stem from the wishes of the students. The students have traditionally known how to express their concerns, have known how to express their discontent, stage their protests over international developments (?of injustice), over domestic events, over situations which have happened inside and outside the country, through the traditional methods employed in student struggle such as strikes, stoppages, demonstrations, speeches, leaflets and newspapers.

These have always been of a peaceful nature within the framework of a nation which is characterized by being dignified and noble but also peaceful.

The bowstring is sometimes stretched to the fullest, and sometimes it can even snap. It all really depends on who is trying to snap the string of the bow and also on who is trying to keep it in a normal condition.

We could never say that it is the students who want to disrupt public order, nor could we say that it is the students who are responsible for the various situations we have seen. The student is a free soul; he is a rebel by nature. If he is not a rebel when he is young, he will be emasculated when mature.

These demonstrations have never been truly curbed by this administration. On the contrary, attempts have been made to direct them, to encourage them, with an awareness of the role played by the generation of our country's youth at this time and of the future that generation should have when it becomes its turn to hold the reins of government and the nation; when in a little over 22 years, it will take over our principal natural resource.

But that youth must prepare for this and, within its rebellions, unrest and natural demonstrations, that youth has to guide us along the path of rectitude, honesty and peace. But often its generally noble intentions are not attained and cannot be attained because of the interferences of those who instigate, who exploit the natural rebelliousness of youths to try to satisfy voracious political appetites, to try to produce sparks within the student masses to disrupt public order.

Lately, within the usual student expressions of dissent, there have been some incidents which must be discussed.

Just last night at the University of Panama there were incidents of violence which resulted in the death of one person. A student was killed. Another is now in critical condition, struggling for life, and about 5 or 6 students are seriously wounded. This is a situation which could have been prevented. Firearms are forbidden at the University of Panama and in every school in the country. It is forbidden to carry arms and it is forbidden to use arms of any kind--firearms, bludgeons, or sharp weapons.

Nevertheless, we must ask who brought those arms in. Who is truly responsible; who gives the Panamanian youth and students these arms? Is it the students who try to acquire them, or is it persons with an almost profiteering [usurario] desire to return to the past? Could it not be that it is those persons who do not want a strengthening of the 505 corregimiento representatives? It is those persons who want a return to the system of deputies, those persons who within the free democratic exchange of ideas want certain ideas to be persecuted here and who are making a sort of beachhead here to persecute communism, socialism and any group that does not share the ideoogy of those who believe in violence. It is precisely the groups which do not want Panama to be a stable nation. They do not want in Panama a continuation and strengthening of the conditions of democratic existence which we now have. It is those persons who have a great nostalgia for power who are trying to undermine the student movement, taking advantage of students with a clear revolutionary conscience in an attempt to promote chaos, disorder and public disturbances.

As the Panamanian people know, in the coming days there will be a historic event, what we have called a date with the fatherland, when the President of the United States and the chiefs of state of democratic nations of America--Costa Rica, Colombia, Venezuela, Jamaica and Mexico--will meet in Panama for the exchange of ratification documents of the Torrijos-Carter treaties. It is an event of tremendous historic importance because of the advancement represented by those treaties for our country. But there are people who do not want this to occur. There are people who in the past few weeks and days have been inciting, provoking, have been circulating leaflets and papers, even announcing over radio stations that they would go into action to try to prevent this event from occurring under the calm conditions which are characteristic of our country.

Those people who have been sponsoring outbreaks of violence and abnormal situations to prevent the celebration of this great historic event are the people who have been trying to provoke a situation of disorder, the outcome of which will depend in great part on the attitude of the National Guard--which we already know and will explain--but fundamentally on the serene and calm attitude of the Panamanian people.

When there are forces bent on disrupting a country's democratic life, no matter how much resistance the government's democratic institutions or its police forces may offer, the main contribution must come from the Panamanian people's own calm and peaceful attitude.

The events that have occurred at Panama university were not isolated events. They did not involve accidental circumstances. This was no happenstance. These were a series of well thought out, premeditated acts on the part of precisely those forces which in the last few months have been trying to hinder our nation's democratic life, for which we Panamanians have had to struggle so much.

What are they provoking? What are they trying to achieve? Do they want to destabilize our government? Are they trying to provoke intervention by the National Guard? Do they want the National Guard to be repressive? However, they are running not only against the statements but against the firm attitude of General Torrijos and his National Guard general staff. Yesterday, General Torrijos said that these last 10 years have not passed in vain; that the National Guard will never be an instrument of repression and not of development and that its presence, that is, the presence of the guard alongside the people, will be permanent and irreversible. The era of the naive guard will not return.

Last night, certain groups--some bent on disrupting Panama's democratic life--were trying to produce a martyr. They were trying to produce a bullet fired by National Guard rifles. The National Guard did not even enter the university campus. It let events there speak for themselves. It allowed the events to take place and, at the university, the university authorities were the ones who intervened last night. Later, the rector will give you some explanations. However, they are trying to bring about repression and they have threatened to hold marches and demonstrations, to create disorders. They have gone out to paint on walls and on the Foreign Ministry. They have gone out to try to hold demonstrations in a bid to provoke a reaction from the people. Fortunately, they found no sympathy in these Panamanian people. Therefore, their attitude has been in vain. However, everything will depend--I repeat--on the categorical, total rejection that the Panamanian people are showing toward them.

This phenomenon is not only taking place in our country. If we look at other countries of the world where there is freedom of thought, where democracy is daily trying to take root and grow stronger, there are always retrogressive forces which, while trying to appear progressive, are in connivance with extremely reactionary forces extremely opposed to this democratic progress, seeking a return to repression, dictatorship, chaos and panic which, fortunately, they will not achieve in this country.

For this reason, we wish to end our statements by saying the following: The Education Ministry, the directing council of Panama university, the University of Panama--which have always adopted measures against armed activities and the use of violent means--are now determined more than ever to reinforce the measures aimed at bringing about peace and calm in the university because such peace and calm are a reflection of the peace and calm that should prevail in our country.

So, let us all reflect on these events. Let us continue, Panamanian people, to give a firm no to these politicking activities of groups which seek to undermine our democratic institutions and create chaos in this country. They will not overcome.

Royo Press Conference

PA152117Y Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1817 GMT 15 Jun 78 PA

[Press conference held by Education Minister Aristides Royo with foreign correspondents at the National Guard Noncommissioned Officers Club on morning of 15 June--recorded]

[Excerpts] [Broadcast of recording intercepted in progress] [Royo] If you were to ask us exactly how this happened, we could not give a definite answer at this time. We do know that the incidents took place at the university between opposing groups, but we do not yet have an exact account of the incidents, as there are conflicting reports about the participation of groups representing various ideologies and movements. In fact, an investigation is already underway, with the participation of the coroners, with respect to autopsies and reports on the wounded students. Last night following the incidents, we began to collect evidence, such as cartridge cases, rocks, and other articles that could have caused the wounds, and to verify the property damage, the estimate of which has not yet been completed, caused by fire in a couple of student centers, and the destruction of other installations and equipment.

The rector of Panama University was not able to be here with us because he is giving testimony to the nation's attorney general on last night's incidents. He announced through Radio Libertad today, however, that he would take all the action necessary to determine the facts through an investigation. Therefore, we must wait for the course of the investigation before giving a detailed report to the press and the nation on the incidents and responsibilities.

It is important to bring up at this conference certain issues we consider most relevant. In the first place, there was no intervention whatsoever by the National Guard. The National Guard limited itself to keeping informed on the situation, but at no time did it enter the university premises. The measures that were enacted were adopted by the university authorities, namely, the rector and vice rectors of the institution.

The closing of the university--which I will explain later--was decided by the directors council and the academic council of the university. It is a conflict originating inside the Panama University with the participation of students--it will have to be determined through the investigation begun today whether there were any outsiders involved. It is not the first time acts of violence have taken place inside the university between groups with different viewpoints, but it is the first time that the incidents have led to mourning by Panamanian families. This is something the entire population should regret.

The incidents that took place at the Panama University were not casual nor isolated, but the result of debates that have been taking place in the last few months.

The attitude of the government concerning the students' behavior and their manner of settling their differences has been one of great tolerance. And if the Panama University was not closed before, it is because at no time had violence reached the extremes of last night.

The closing of the university is not final nor has it been made effective until a specific date. The university will remain closed until the proper conditions exist to guarantee a return to normal operations. However, this does not mean repression of student actions also.

We feel it should be noted here that within that atmosphere of political tolerance which is shown at all levels, outside and inside the university, there have been a series of provocations in an attempt to subvert public order. The government, on the one hand, does absolutely nothing to prevent or disrupt the demonstrations of political groups at airports, in the streets and at plazas. On the other hand, in contrast, we see that when the government announces a civic, patriotic event of national unity--such as the one on the 16th [of June] political groups desperately try to torpedo those acts.

Unfortunately for them, they have encountered the commonsense of the National Guard--and attempts were made last night to provoke the guard to intervene in the university then--and the maturity of a people who believe in freedom of expression and assembly so long as this does not involve infringement upon others' rights or lack of respect for those rights.

In connection with last night's incidents, it is our opinion that they will not mar or hurt tomorrow's, Friday's, events. In the first place, it is a completely identified cell [foco completamente identificado] which has been calm since 1230 last night, without the intervention of the guard. Only as a precaution and to prevent tension in the university from increasing have university activities been suspended for the time being. All Panama City high schools, except for the national institute, are working normally. The general situation in the country--a little wet today due to the rain--is not only one of calm but of great enthusiasm for the welcome to be given the three [as heard] presidents of friendly countries who will start arriving tomorrow morning.

Now we can open the question and answer period.

[Question--unidentified speaker] [words indistinct] incidents at the Panama university claimed it was the work of political groups who were trying to torpedo government actions. Could you be a little more specific [words indistinct]?

[Royo] Perhaps I could, but I would be running the risk of either mentioning one who did participate, excuse me, who did not participate as having participated because the investigation has not been completed yet--it is in the initial stages--or of not mentioning someone who in fact did participate and later having to say he participated and to explain why we omitted his name. At this time we do not want to point out specific groups. We know that the incident occurred near the polytechnical school; that one dead student, Demostenes Rodriguez, belonged to the agronomy school, to a group named FAU, the University Anti-Imperialist Front; that Camacho, the other student who died, belonged to the revolutionary student front known as the FER [Federation of Revolutionary Students], or FER-29, and belonged to the law school. [words indistinct]

I would like to add something which is worth noting here, and that is that when we hear, for example, about conflicts at the university involving stones, sticks and so forth, perhaps many people think in terms of statistics. The University of Panama has, I believe, some 30,000 to 32,500 students. The evening, beginning at 1730 for the night classes, is when the greatest number of students is assembled. Approximately 20,000 students are there for approximately 3 and 1/2 or 4 hours, from 1730 to 2130. This is when the greatest number of students is at the University of Panama. We are talking about 20,000 persons.

However, when the student conflicts began at 2030--an hour at which the university is beginning to become somewhat deserted--there would have been about 300 persons there. And when the conflict became worse, there may have been about 120 persons. Then, some 50 persons remained, and finally, none.

One therefore perhaps imagines that the entire university was involved, that the conflict involved 20,000 persons milling around. The numbers which we are giving you were the actual number of people, but these were enough to provoke this situation.

[Question--unidentified speaker] Mr Minister, I would like to say the following: Given the historical and political situation prevailing in Panama since September, when the treaty was signed--a time in which there was plenty of opportunity for violence such as that which occurred last night--the conditions were such as to allow violence to flare easily and yet there was no violence, despite the fact that the political groups said all kinds of things to each other during that period. How do you explain and to what do you attribute the fact that now, at the stage of the simple exchange of instruments of ratification, this kind of violence should occur?

[Royo] The reason is: If one takes a cup and starts filling it drop by drop with water, there comes a time when a single drop of water will cause the cup to overflow. Effectively, after the signing of the treaties, there was a campaign against the approval of the treaties in the plebiscite. They lost the campaign. They lost and the Panamanian people, 67 percent of them, decided to approve the treaties. However, unlike other countries where one party wins and the only recourse left to the losing party is to concede and then to torpedo and bomb the government as much as it can, here there was no recognition of the plebiscite. There were charges of fraud despite the fact that there were people here from the OAS and the rectors of prestigious universities on the continent and despite the fact that it was a completely pure and clean plebiscite. Despite this, these minority groups began to organize meetings and demonstrations, which few people attended. They did so, first of all, in an attempt to have the plebiscite rejected and later to charge that the treaty had been changed to such an extent that a new plebiscite was needed.

Later having failed to obtain another plebiscite, they began to oppose President Carter's visit, to oppose the ceremony of the exchange of the instruments of ratification. Therefore, it was like a wave which, as these groups became more desperate, began to grow in intensity, although it has not grown in mass. Therefore, this wave is that which formed the drop that caused the cup to overflow last night.

We cannot say exactly how events occurred, but within all these attempts, within all these charges, there are groups [does not complete sentence].... This is one of the differences between the groups involved. And one of the differences is that there are groups which want to celebrate the events on the 16th, and there are groups which do not want to do so. These differences and this manner of viewing things at times produce these results.

[Panama university vice rector] I would like to add something because I believe that the question requires more analysis. For example, in the 9 [as heard] years in which the university has been in operation, we have really had no incidents to regret despite the absolute liberty which has been granted within the university. We practically affirmed it as a record that a university, for a period of 9 years, could function with absolute liberty, that there should really be so much maturity among the students and professors of the university and that we have never had a regrettable incident.

Last night's events really surprised us because this was not the [word indistinct] of the various student groups which freely express all their thoughts, hold their meetings in which they express these thoughts and enter into unions with other student groups, always at a high level. [words indistinct] In summary, there suddenly erupts a problem that is completely unexpected and which is completely alien to the normal development of activities.

I do not know if this is a question we must analyze within the university or what ingredients we must add.

It is not my intention to try to find excuses because, instead of making myself understood, I would be doing the opposite. However, I would like to add this: Contrary to what the people might be thinking, the National Guard will not be sent against the students when they go into the streets. This I can assure you. During the students' 1-day demonstration in September, the National Guard did not go into the streets. It happened one morning and the incidents continued the next day with heavy stoning. There were a lot of persons who infiltrated the student demonstrations, some for political reasons, others to see what could be gained materially, and the result was assaults on private property and acts of open and outright vandalism. The National Guard then had to intervene. This was decided after the students had lost control, which often happens, because when the students maintain control of the situation, the National Guard does not have the need to intervene. The other day, when the students from the arts and crafts high school went into the streets in a demonstration to make a series of demands, they threw rocks at some stores and broke into a jewelry store. Some jewels were stolen. Immediately, the National Guard had to intervene to disperse the students. Fortunately there were no regrettable incidents. At times, when the students lose control of the situation and it no longer has the characteristics of a student movement, the National Guard then has to intervene, to disperse them with rubber hoses, unlike other countries where they are dispersed with bullets and lots of people are killed when the situation gets out of control and public order is disrupted.

We will never stop regretting last night's incidents. However, if we are sure of something it is that, fortunately, the National Guard did not intervene because, among some of the operations being carried out, one that is very obvious is the cause the National Guard to unleash repression and to have someone killed so that there will be a martyr and so that the government can be accused of not being democratic, of being a dictatorship and of killing students in the streets. We are trying to prevent these things.

[Question--unidentified speaker] When is the national institute going to start classes again?

[Royo] The incidents at the national institute involved the following: The students went into the streets to paint the Foreign Affairs Ministry once more. I think it is the building that has been written upon the most in the country. I hope they will change to another ministry or another building. Once in the streets, a small group of students started to create disorders, shouting, "Carter do not come." Then, in order to prevent other sectors with deep political interests from taking advantage of the students' movements, we ordered, pardon me, the school principal with the assistance of the teachers council decided to close the school for these 2 days because it was during these 2 days, Thursday and Friday, when the students were planning to go into the streets to sabotage, interrupt and disturb the acts scheduled to commemorate the exchange of the ratified documents.

[Question--unidentified speaker] A former president who recently returned to the country said that Panamanian students were being indoctrinated. As minister of education, what do you have to say about this?

[Royo] If we were really indoctrinating the students, they would all be alike and there would be no student conflicts. They would all think alike and we would see that they had good thoughts. There is really no specific type of doctrine, not in our education reform programs--many of which are jointly carried out with the University of Panama--on subjects dealing with the Spanish language, geography, social and political sciences.

Many private and Catholic schools are incorporated into our programs. What we do try to teach, and also encourage, the students through our programs is for them to maintain their rebellious nature. We also teach them nationalism, to love their country, not to accept colonialism, and that the Canal Zone is ours and that it is our primary natural resource. But there is really no ideological slant. We are trying to produce students with minds open to any ideological trend so that they can choose from among them that which they prefer. That is precisely what the students are doing. Let us take high school students in general, especially those in their senior year who began their high school years when this government had already been in power for 4 years, and you will find among them--although this government has been in power for almost 10 years--all sorts of trends: Maoists, Che Guevarists, Fidelists, capitalists, Christian Democrats. You will find among them absolutely all the current trends in style in universities and high schools throughout the world which engage in politics. Therefore, there is really no specific ideological trend being used to indoctrinate the students.

[Question--unidentified speaker] A vast sector of public opinion is opposed to the treaties. Could it be possible that the government has not used the proper language to convince the people regarding the virtues of the new treaties?

[Royo] In the first place, the government has often said that it is not a great lover of the treaties, which have faults and which were negotiated in search of a peaceful solution. We realize that these treaties contain what the United States was capable of granting, and which it almost could not grant because the treaties were narrowly approved, and what in fact was the most Panama could obtain from the United States for the time being. When the treaties were submitted to a plebiscite, we explained to the people from the start that these treaties had a series of faults and demands which could not be obtained. All this, plus the great publicity allowed the opposition to the treaties, which as a rule is opposition to the government, were fused together.

However, they were given ample publicity and the Panamanian people were made part of the treaty negotiations. They acted as conegotiators and this participation led to a 67-percent popular approval of the treaty.

We are really very glad and would have been greatly concerned if we had obtained a 95-percent approval. I am going to explain why. We have a youth sector--I believe that 44 percent of the Panamian population is under 21 years of age. Many of them were over 18 years of age and, naturally, they had to express their opinion. It would have been very difficult for this youth sector to be very satisfied with the treaties. However, a large sector of this youth is aware that it is a step forward and must be taken as such.

Therefore, we do not aspire to have a complately homogenous society. We believe that within our society it was reasonable to obtain a majority approval for the treaties even though it was not overwhelming.

[Question--unidentified speaker] I want to ask about the university's reorganization. I am not saying that the free play of ideas or the study of all political ideas and trends should be restricted within the university. I am referring to the reorganization in terms of creating some internal regulation forbidding the use of politics as the main and dominating activity in the university. Is this being considered within the university reorganization now taking place during the closing of the university?

[Royo] I would say the following: Definitely. The spirit of the laws regulating the university, in spite of the fact that sometimes the students have exceeded themselves in trying to impose [words indistinct] over academic matters. I understand that this is inherent in universities, but this is not the spirit of our administration. It is definitely very important for us to have a well-educated student. At the same time he should have political freedom and the right to express his opinions. But under no circumstances can we allow, now or ever, political ideas to prevail over academic matters.

Our basic duty is to prepare men capable of handling and assuming the responsibilities that this country must confront within the near future. This has been our goal. It is and always will be our goal, and perhaps the closing of the university will allow us to advance more toward this goal.

[Question--unidentified speaker] If this has been the spirit of the university, which has not been put into practice because within the university political activities not political ideas prevail, what would be the measures the government and the university authorities would take in order to keep political activities from being the main source of activity for university students?

[Royo] In this respect, I am pleased to tell you that we have advanced. We have begun with a cultural season, which the university has increased precisely during these past 2 years. This cultural activity, which takes place mainly during vacation time, has had a certain impact and effect on the student body. On the other hand, we have had a series of panels on matters such as: What are we going to do with the Canal Zone? In these panels we have had the participation of teachers and students. The number of lectures within the university has been increased as well as activities which these political groups are developing within the academic field. We believe that they have increased and that they reflect the situation prevailing in the university.

Perhaps it would be beneficial to regulate the rules of the game somewhat. [passage indistinct] Often political activity hampers the normal development of classes. Possibly there is a [words indistinct]. I believe that is more or less the purpose of your question. We have dealt with university matters in the way in which they should be dealt with. We have tried to promote good habits and good intentions. I think that it will not be difficult for the university to advance along these lines.

[Question--unidentified speaker] Minister Royo, I saw two of this morning's newspapers and, yesterday, the television newscast. I probably missed something, but I have not seen an official communique on student activities tomorrow. I would like to know if the ministry has anything definite regarding tomorrow's activities because I believe we should exchange some ideas with Government Ministry officials regarding the radio broadcasting situation, which would be of interest to us.

[Royo] In this respect I can inform you that classes will continue normally until tomorrow at 1100, when the teachers and students in the morning classes can participate in the demonstration scheduled for 1300. However, no decree has been issued yet. One last question.

[Question--unidentified speaker] I would like to know if there are any plans to take concrete measures following the investigation being carried out to punish those involved in these incidents which, besides its political aspects, could frankly be considered as criminal. We had warned about the responsibility of a situation which was foreseeable. A situation had been created within the university which allowed the violent reaction by persons claiming to belong to a group linked with the government.

We had warned that matters had gone too far after September's unexpected events. For example, in the law school there were aggressions and interventions. As a matter of fact, even students peacefully attending class were violently attacked. The attackers are known by name and have a civic responsibility above any political and student responsibility. We as students proposed that, in accordance with university statutes, these students be expelled. Yet this has not been possible.

We want to know if here at this news conference you can give us your word that these students will be held politically and criminally responsible for their actions?

[Royo] In the first place, we must wait for the results of the investigation. Undoubtedly, we must determine if sanctions are called for. In the second place, there is nothing that will allow a common crime to enjoy extraterritoriality from the penal code merely because it was committed on the university campus. This means that, if a homicide is committed at the university, this falls under the jurisdiction of the respective authorities and this morning the rector gave his statement to the attorney general. When matters relate to a common crime, the respective authorities have full responsibility for defining the criminal situation.

If you allow me, I would like to conclude by telling the students that we have come to this news conference [words indistinct] and we have not given you the information because we have not received it yet.

UNIVERSITY RECTOR DISCUSSES CLOSURE OF UNIVERSITY

PA151515Y Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1236 GMT 15 Jun 78 PA

[Statements to nation by University of Panama Rector Eligio Salas from Radio Libertad studios in Panama City--live]

[Excerpts] The events took place at approximately 2030. Regrettably, there were exchanges of gunfire, which resulted in the death of a young university student who was full of enthusiasm, thereby causing the loss of a promising citizen of this fatherland.

In view of the events taking place on the university campus, Panama university authorities immediately took steps to intervene exclusively with the help of the order and security corps that guards the properties of the university. Thanks to their intervention the hostilities--which had reached a dramatic stage--did not continue, thus averting other possible regrettable consequences.

The administrative and academic councils of Panama university immediately called a special meeting during which the deans and the other members of these councils voted to suspend all university activities indefinitely, including not only academic but administrative activities. This measure has been adopted and will be maintained until such time as it can be guaranteed that events such as those that took place yesterday will never occur again.

Measures were also adopted to conduct investigations--through the justice department--to determine specific responsibilities for the events so that the guilty may be tried by common courts.

We also share the opinion of the education minister that this does not involve isolated events, that this does not involve mere incidents, because throughout the past 2 months student conflicts have reached the point that led to the occurrence of these regrettable incidents.

The University of Panama has always been a sensitive element in the political life of this country.

This fact is known, and there are many who try to take advantage of this for the benefit of the objectives, goals and plans they seek to fulfill. We want to request the attention of all the students of the university, of all the student groups and professors of this institution. We appeal to their maturity, to their sense of responsibility, to their spirit of patriotism to insure that none of the groups, bodies and organizations without which the university cannot fulfill its work can be diverted. We appeal to their sense of responsibility and maturity so that together we will jointly defeat those who seek to artificially introduce anarchy and disorder because we are convinced and know well that the immense majority of the students and the entire body of professors do not agree with actions of this type being carried out in the institution, no matter where they stem from. We have enough talent and intelligence in this university to confront those who seek to subvert it for well-known motives that cannot in any way be permitted a place within the institution of higher learning.

We are sure that the measures we have adopted have the support of the public, which aspires to have the university serve as an example of serious scientific and academic work in every discipline. Consequently, we reiterate that the University of Panama will resume its activities when it is completely guaranteed that incidents as regrettable as those which occurred last night will not happen again.

LABOR MINISTER COMMENTS ON UNIVERSITY DISTURBANCES

PA151617Y Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1258 GMT 15 Jun 78 PA

[Speech to nation by Panamanian Labor Minister Adolfo Ahumada from Radio Libertad Studios in Panama City--live]

[Text] The circumstances leading to the regrettable events which took place at the University of Panama last night merit a serious and objective analysis by all citizens because, unfortunately, there has been a loss of human life.

Up to now, the discussions among the student groups were mere verbal clashes, but now the citizens of Panama are witnessing the sad and tragic sight of Panamanian families in mourning. These circumstances call for an analysis because when, as a result of the ratification of the treaties by the U.S. Senate on 18 April of this year, Chief of Government General Torrijos announced some political measures intended to strengthen even more the democratic structures of our country, the opening to the political parties and the return of the exiles were brought up. Then, it was necessary to make additional explanations for the purpose of clearly establishing before the country that the return of the exiles should not be interpreted as a symbol of weakness on the part of the national government, but rather as a humanitarian act permitting the return of persons who could again join their families after having been outside the country for some time.

It was also said that this measure should not result in--and I wish to quote--nights of the long knives or any other attitude, activity, or action that would cause any disturbances in Panamanian society, upsetting the stability which--in spite of some errors --has been manitained by the national government during the entire revolutionary process so that the government could devote itself fully to developing educational plans, public health plans, solutions to serious problems similar to those affecting many countries in the world--such as unemployment--regardless of how radical these solutions may be. In other words, the tranwuillity and stability necessary to permit the men and women of this nation to devote themselves to their work, production and the overall improvement of Panamanian society in order to gradually overcome the problems which are common in an underdeveloped country must not be upset.

These were the true intentions of the revolutionary government: to open the doors, to open all the doors so that he who wanted to return could do so without any obstacles and without any restrictions. We even went as far as saying that persons who had police records for having participated in bank holdups, urban and rural guerrilla warfare and crimes were not going to be persecuted. However, it seems that this policy of the revolutionary government has not received an adequate reply, has not received a calm reply, has not been welcomed in a manner that would have permitted this return to lead to a strengthening of the harmony that should prevail among the Panamanian people. Rather, the government has been answered with division and hatred, and now, we regret, death within the Panamanian family.

That is why the nation today more than ever should carefully analyze all this and evaluate the meaning of these actions. Unfortunately, it seems that in Panama it is still the case that political groups cannot struggle in their own behalf, using the methods they consider to be the best methods for ousting this government. Instead, it seems that they like to repeat history by using the students to fight up until their last drop of blood.

A country having problems which must be solved cannot allow such situations. It cannot allow these things when, within a few hours, the country will be participating in and attending a grand ceremony for the exchange of the ratification documents which will enable the Republic of Panama to make effective use of its instruments of development, one of which--its geographic location--is still in the hands of foreigners. This instrument will be turned over to our country through this treaty.

There is a great national prospect for development. A tremendous future is in store for this country and upcoming generations as a result of the achievements which have been made along the road to our liberation. But in order to realize our future, all we Panamanians--of all social classes, of all races, of all ideologies--must prepare the plans and programs and work jointly to develop the best of ourselves and assess all of our capabilities. Some might have great capabilities, others have limited ones. But all Panamanians, together, must now face the need--under the present situation resulting from the new treaties--to produce new paths and resources, with the participation of all the workers, businessmen and professionals, in order to achieve this progress, which is so necessary.

However, this cannot be achieved if students are used to overthrow the government. Some do not wish to listen to the fact that there are going to be elections on 6 August, in which the people will participate directly in choosing their own representatives. It is an election in which the representative must live in his community and be aware of the problems of his community, thus being a better spokesman for his community. That assembly will discuss the legislative powers it will have. That assembly will determine what the nature of the renovation of the powers of the state will be.

They [presumably the opposition groups] are insisting on a constituent assembly, saying that General Torrijos should leave, saying that this government has not done anything and that everything that has been done has been done incorrectly. All this was said shortly after the more important exiles returned. Incidents have taken place in the country which later led to tragedy and deaths because, as hatred spreads like a negative seed through Panamanian society, there is a chance that it will find fertile soil, particularly among the youths, who because of their emotional natures are not able to evaluate the consequences of many actions.

That is why hatred must be countered with harmony, agitation--which is no longer a free expression of ideas but rather calls for Panamanians to fight among themselves--must be countered with work and tranquillity. Calls for men to walk down the path of destruction must be countered with the experience the Panamanian people have had.

The people know that behind the scenes are those who do not dare to strive for power at the risk of their own personal comfort and their own personal wealth, but now they agitate the youths so that these youths will fight for them.

We have the most absolute faith and confidence that on Friday the Panamanian people will attend a ceremony which will strengthen Panama domestically and internationally. The people will calmly attend, in spite of the present circumstances of tragedy resulting from the university incidents, in the knowledge that step forward is being taken. The people will participate in the 6 August elections to elect the best of their corregimientos. They will follow the decisions that will be taken by that assembly as of 11 October 1978. The people will repudiate those who think that Panama can only and should only exist in a state of agitation.

Therefore, we are sure we will walk down the best of paths and, with our own limited resources, with our own imagination, we will move ahead to see how we can solve problems such as unemployment, the cost of living, and all others which daily affect the Panamanian people and which can never be solved in an atmosphere of uncertainty, but can be solved if we seek the best from the Panamanian people, the best from the citizenry, the best from all the forces which we find in the student body. The students will study to secure the better future of the country; others will become workers, will work to increase production; still others will become businessmen and will invest in the knowledge that the economy will be strengthened through thei investments. The national government will carry on its historical responsibility and will lead the people. Under the leadership of General Torrijos, we will deepen this revolutionary process which we all want so much. Thank you.

COMMENTATORS REACT TO LABOR MINISTER'S 'THREAT'

PA142221Y Panama City Radio Mia Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 14 Jun 78 PA

[Commentary by Julio Ortega, Ramon Pereira Jr, and Ramon Pereira P. during "Diario del Aire" program]

[Excerpts] [Ortega] Several listeners have called us to talk about the preparations for Friday's rally on the occasion of President Carter's arrival. Some listeners have also commented on a report on the statements made by Labor Minister Adolfo Ahumada during a meeting with Labor Ministry employees held at the former legislative palace.

I am concerned that Minister Ahumada has assumed such a drastic attitude by saying that anyone who attended Dr Arnulfo Arias' rally is a traitor to the government and should be fired. They are going to have to fire all the state security officials who were there doing their jobs. I think that if an employee is efficient, honest and does his work during his working hours, he is free to go wherever he wants to in his free time.

[Pereira Jr] I feel that if a person works for the government, this person should support the actions of the government. Whether you are forced to go or you go out of your own free will, if you work for the government you have to support the government.

[Pereira P.] I think Minister Ahumada went overboard. I think the worse thing you can do is to threaten a person. If the government wants to dismiss those employees who are not loyal, it did not have to wait for the arrival of a former president. Let us admit that many went to greet Arnulfo Arias because they appreciate Doctor Arias, they follow him as their leader.

[Ortega] I have heard that high-ranking military and government circles are not worried about Arnulfo having drawn a crowd of 150,000 or 250,000 persons. They say the people now support Arnulfo but will later turn their backs on him. They say every time Arnulfo is overthrown no one supports him. That is what the government is saying.

However, the government has not stopped to think of the reasons for what is happening today. They see what they want to see. They look at the trees, but forget about the forest. Listen to what was published in the magazine SEMANA DE PANAMA.

Referring to a declaration of the revolution, the magazine said: The declaration said that the electoral code would be amended and broad guarantees would be offered so that the campaign could be held in an atomosphere of public freedom. The previous paragraph said: The electoral tribunal stated that the [presumably electoral] board members will be persons having a solid reputation so that the people will have absolute trust that each vote will be honestly counted. The most interesting point is one that said, and I quote: The National Guard will never be allowed to be connected to any political party or opposition group. This is what this revolution said in 1968. But today, we see that the government is thinking of a political party. In other words, the revolution has basically changed its course.

There were 10 points which were announced to the people to describe the plans of the revolutionary government that was born at the time. If these 10 points had been fulfilled, Arnulfo Arias would have arrived in Santa Ana Plaza accompanied only by his family and today the government would not have to drag people [to see Carter] and tell them: Since I am paying your salary, you go where I tell you. I was told that in one ministry the employees were informed that the only accepted excuse for not attending was a death certificate. Unfortunately, the public employee himself will not be able to present his death certificate.

Thus, we see that with actions such as these the government is harming itself. The government should review the reasons why the people are turning their backs on the government, why even the public employees do not want to go. This is interesting.

Please note that last Saturday the shops did not have to close in spite of the fact that there were 150,000 persons in the streets. The shops did not have to put up their iron bars, did not have to close. There were no thefts or broken windows. Shops stayed open till 1800. Everyone was calm. No one was worried or had any doubts or any fear. I wish to bring this up because we are seriously worried about this country's future.

The government must try to win back the confidence of the people, not through violence by saying we have the power and anyone not going to the rally is going to be fired, or that only a death certificate will be accepted, or that anyone who supports Arnulfo is a traitor, a fifth columnist. There are even national guardsmen who support Arnulfo. That is history. If someone does not support Arnulfo, then his mother does, or his grandmother or his father. That is a tradition.

These ministers who are engaging in such activities are really harming the government. They are marring the government's intentions, regardless of whether they are good or bad intentions. The government is seeking a rapprochement with Carter, and these ministers are harming the government.

If I am called by the minister of my institution, I expect him to present a convincing argument, a logical and honest argument that will enable him to convince me of the importance of my presence at a rally to be attended by six heads of state. But an inefficient official is one who says: All right you guys, on the 16th you have to be there because this is something by the revolution. No one can stop the revolution. The revolution is irreversible. Anyone thinking they can oust Torrijos is wrong. We have the force and we are going to use it. Anyone who does not show up is out on the street. And I do not want to see any Arnulfists here, or Liberals, because you are either with us or you get out. Please, what can I think of such an official? All this proves to me what I have been telling the government: The middle positions are being filled by inefficient individuals. There is no one capable in handling orientation and production. They have nothing, they are empty brains full of slogans. They all repeat the same thing.

The people are disappointed because they have been told things which have not been fulfilled, such as the 10-point program. In 1968, they said they had no partisan or political aspirations and today they want to form a single party. They do not want anyone else. The people see this. The people do not hate General Torrijos or the military. The people feel they have been betrayed. They feel that they have lost that possibility for salvation which was seen in 1968. The military should change their attitude, should see to guaranteeing order. Then, they would have more prestige, more influence.

To conclude, I wish to summarize my answer to all of this. There is no capability, there is no other argument than the big stick. As long as they wield it, instead of using their heads--since they are so good and competent--they will continue having these results. Every time it will get worse; not just because Arnulfo gathers a crowd and has magnetism, but because the people are searching for an answer, something that will provide an alternative, a possibility. Who created this situation? The same ones who have had everything in their hands for the last 10 years and have left the path they originally outlined.

BELIZE

PRICE, LINDO MEMO OF UNDERSTANDING SPARKS DEBATE

FL151405Y Belize City THE REPORTER in English 11 Jun 78 pp 1, 8 FL

[By political correspondent]

[Text] A memorandum of understanding, agreed to in New York last Friday between the premier of Belize Mr. George Price and the leader of the opposition, Mr. Dean Lindo, has been the subject of widely different interpretations, despite its clear language and unequivocal message.

Belmopan's ambassador to the Caribbean, Mr. V.H. Courtenay at a public meeting Tuesday night claimed that the memorandum of understanding was the product of a united front between government and opposition in their search for the independence of Belize.

Opposition leaders at their meeting Monday night strenuously denied the existence of any united front between UDP and PUP, or any joint plan to work for Belize's independence. In New York, they said, the opposition had rejected out of hand all suggestions that the words united front should be used anywhere in the memorandum. The memorandum, the opposition claimed, was exactly what it set out to be--a statement of understanding which recognizes the right of the opposition to be present at all future discussions on the Anglo-Guatemalan dispute.

The distinction is important. PUP leaders were able to divide the opposition with their last united front in 1960 when they won an advanced constitution which brought complete internal self-government. The PUP went on to make a clean sweep in the general elections which followed in 1961.

With this strategy in mind PUP leaders were anxious to sell the New York talks as a united front, but the opposition, badly outmaneouvered in 1961, was marching to the sound of its own inner drum-beat this time--a drum-beat which seems to be attracting strong support.

For there has been almost universal approval, and relief at the opposition stand and praise for its negotiating achievement in the few hours of talks with the British foreign secretary.

The two parties have now taken their explanations to the districts, and in the weeks that follow, the predictable pattern of public meetings will once more brighten up the countryside.

Whatever happens now, Mr. Price seems to have gambled and lost. There is to be no division of UDP ranks this time, and the memorandum of understanding seems to have been understood--at least in UDP circles.

HONDURAS

CHURCH CRITICIZES GOVERNMENT FOR PRIEST'S EXPULSION

PA142340Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1825 GMT 14 Jun 78 PA

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 14 Jun (ACAN-EFE)--The Honduran Catholic Church today, Wednesday, condemned the military government for its continuous violation of human rights, in expelling Father Evaristo Bertrand, a U.S. priest, from Honduras on 5 June.

The National Pastoral Commission issued a communique in which it says that the Capucin priest was expelled from Honduras without prior notice and without even consulting church officials.

The communique adds that the most elemental human rights were violated when Father Bertrand was deprived of the right to communicate and that during the 48 hours prior to his expulsion to El Salvador he was terribly mistreated.

The church also wants to know the real motives for the expulsion of Father Bertrand, who was falsely accused of having connections with the Sandinist guerrillas. This was the pretext used for his expulsion. Father Bertrand was serving in the community of Danli.

Church officials have said that if none of the charges against Father Bertrand can be proven, he should be allowed to return to Honduras where he had dedicated himself to preaching the Christian gospel and not promoting subversion.

The church officials would also like to know if Nicaragua, from where Father Bertrand was previously expelled, falsely accused of collaborating with the Sandinist guerrillas, had anything to do with the expulsion of Father Bertrand from Honduras. If this is the case, the church officials say that the Honduran military are establishing a shameful precedent of submitting to foreign pressure.

Meanwhile, Monsignor Hector Enrique Santos, head of the Honduran Catholic Church, is waiting for an explanation from Chief of Government Juan Alberto Melgar Castro regarding the expulsion of Father Bertrand.

NICARAGUA

YOUNG GIRL KILLED IN MANAGUA DEMONSTRATION

PA151905Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1557 GMT 15 Jun 78 PA

[Text] Managua, 15 Jun (ACAN-EFE)--A primary school student was killed last night in this city during a demonstration staged at the "Unidad de Propositos" housing complex located in the northern section of this capital. The young girl, identified as Judith Morales Lara, was not participating in the demonstration but, together with her mother, was looking for her brother.

The student demonstration was meant to be peaceful, but the students ignited homemade bombs when a military patrol appeared. The members of the patrol reacted by getting out of the military jeep in which they were riding. Suddenly, a shot was heard which [words indistinct] Judith, a primary school student who attended the "Naciones Unidas" school.

According to unofficial reports, an unidentified soldier--who was a member of the military patrol which arrived to disperse the demonstrators--has been accused of firing the shot that killed the minor.

A Managua judge who arrived at the scene stated that the copper-clad bullet made no exit wound.

Meanwhile, the pro-government newspaper NOVEDADES stated in today's issue that the bullet that killed the student "is not used by the military."

At the same time, the parent's federation has demanded the creation of a military board to investigate the incident and define responsibilities.

Unrest Flares

PA160050Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2350 GMT 15 Jun 78 PA

[Text] Managua, 15 Jun (ACAN-EFE)--The death of grammar school student Judith Morales Lara last night from a bullet wound supposedly inflicted by a soldier during a student demonstration has intensified student agitation in Managua.

The circumstances under which Judith died have not been fully clarified and military authorities promised an official communique which has still not been disclosed.

Dozens of students from the Ramirez Goyena Institute, the National Business Institute, the Maestro Gabriel Institute and the Miguel de Cervantes Institute, the ones with the greatest number of students, staged a demonstration march today to Managua's civic center where the Public Education Ministry offices are located. Along with protesting the death of the student, the clarification of which they demanded, the demonstrators also called for land for the peasants in Tonala and Sirama, in the western part of the country, whose representatives are still occupying the chancery's office in Managua.

Before the ministry they also asked for the settlement of the internal problems of the various high schools that were included in a list of grievances which was issued at the end of the student strike of last April.

Police patrols hurled teargas bombs, used their whips and arrested several students in the southern outskirts of this capital. As a result of those incidents, the Association of High School Students [Asociacion de Estudiantes de Secundaria--AES] reported this afternoon that another student strike has been called until the killing of student Morales Lara is clarified and invited the students to her burial.

In the meantime, in the city of Jinotepe, 45 km south of here, about 800 elementary school students of less than 12 years of age marched down the streets of the city chanting antigovernment slogans. When soldiers showed up, they were invited to join the demonstration but, of course, the soldiers did not. They just followed the students closely without interference.

SOMOZA DELIVERS STATE OF NATION ADDRESS

PA151930Y Managua NOVEDADES in Spanish 10 Jun 78 pp 2, 40, 41, 42, 53 PA

[State of Nation speech delivered to Congress by Nicaraguan President Anastasio Somoza Debayle on 9 Jun 78]

[Excerpts] Honorable National Congress:

As president of the republic, I appear before you members of the National Congress of Nicaragua to be present at the opening of your regular sessions and to present to you a report on the acts of my government during the period from 7 May 1977 to date, by which I am fully complying with the dictates of Article 132 of our Constitution.

In this period, my government has given proof of its strength and liberal conviction, because it has been necessary to face very difficult situations which in other countries would have brought about the fall of the government.

We suffered the effects of a drought, which has been the worst in recent times, but, thanks to my government's foresighted policy, at no time has there been a lack of the food needed by Nicaraguan families. The guerrillas episodes, the attacks on banks and barracks, the kidnapings, assassinations and strikes have taken place; however, my government, with the cooperation of the National Guard and the Nicaraguan people, who are committed to peace, has been able to overcome these situations, and I am prepared to redouble my efforts in order to save the people from the consequences that could result if the subversive activities which the Cuban Government and the opposition groups are promoting in our country are allowed to prosper.

The terrorist activities of the opposition received encouragement when, in July, I suffered a heart attack which required a period of hospitalization and recovery. However, thanks to the most high, I promptly recovered from my ill health, and when the country required the full presence of its president, I was already in perfect health. My expected weakness no longer exists. On the contrary, I feel stronger in body and soul to face, along with the peace-loving citizenry and the National Guard, the solution of the national problems which, as president, I am obliged to solve.

Until 19 September 1977, there remained in effect the decree suspending all constitutional guarantees, with the restrictions prescribed in Article 197 of the Constitution and the application of martial law throughout the territory of the republic, since until that moment, the causes which led to the issuance of the decree still existed. Moreover, it was necessary to conclude the trial underway against those charged with terrorist activities, who had filed an appeal with the Supreme Court of Justice. Once their sentence was confirmed, the constitutional guarantees which had been suspended since 1974 were restored throughout the country, by which action I fully complied with the promise I made to the Nicaraguan people when I made my last report to you.

During that period of emergency, national life continued its normal rate of advancement, as was demonstrated by free enterprise, freedom of religion, the free interplay of political parties and the orderly functioning of the branches of government, primarily the civil courts.

It is well known that, once the republic had fully recovered its constitutional guarantees, acts of terrorism were committed with an unfortunate sequel of tears and blood, and there was public incitement to rebellion.

The police forces controlled the outbreaks of terror, which were repudiated by the people. In addition, the civil authorities have taken the measures prescribed by law for repressing outbreaks of civil subversion.

Neither the campaigns of slander nor open provocation will sway the government from its intention of strictly complying with the Constitution and the laws of the republic.

On 10 January 1978, Dr Pedro Joaquin Chamorro was assassinated on a street in Managua. This crime was immediately condemned by my government, because it repudiates violence in all its manifestations, especially when the sacrifice of human lives is involved. This crime unleased a wave of disorders and subversion involving provocation and ambushing of the nation's public forces. Acts of terrorism were committed, resulting in fires and the looting of private property.

The criminal proceedings [juicio criminal] for the assassination began immediately in accordance with obligatory national police and legal procedures and the diligence of the authorities became manifest with the arrest of the killers.

Irate private groups called a partial stoppage of industry and commerce with the basic premise that justice was not working properly in the investigation of this killing. However, this was no more than a mask to hide the real intentions of the strike, which were political in nature since in the end, along with the opposition parties, those groups adopted the censurable position of asking me to resign from the presidency of the republic--an act that would violate all constitutional norms.

As a man respectful of the Constitution and the laws of the republic, I stated publicly that I will leave the presidency on the last day of the term for which I was elected in line with our Constitution.

As a loyal follower of liberal principles, I announced before a large rally attended by more than 200,000 citizens on 26 February the opening toward political pluralism, the promulgation of laws which will enhance social justice, and the creation of a special committee which, without disrupting the country's legal procedures, would be in charge of investigating the crime committed against Dr Chamorro. Furthermore, I have always said publicly and privately that my administration is open to dialog in order to achieve understanding among Nicaraguans for the sake of peace and progress.

All this good will and the wholesome intentions of my administration did not meet the aspirations of the political opposition group, which are interested merely in reaching the presidency and not in resolving the people's major problems; therefore, they continued their wave of agitation, but we have been able to overcome that situation with the cooperation of the Nicaraguan people, whom I thank for their positive contribution to the restoration of order and peace in our country.

During the time of this report [to the nation], the National Guard of Nicaragua continued to reaffirm its loyalty to the highest national authorities and highest esteem for the Constitution and laws of the republic, defending their dearest national interests and even making sacrifices in order to keep peace, which is the basis for the progress, calm and welfare of the Nicraguan people.

Special mention should be made in this report of the courageous and heroic actions of the National Guard when the military commands in San Carlos, Masaya, Granada and Rivas were attacked by surprise by communist elements with the intention of disrupting order and national peace. Several of our prominent army members were heinously killed by those criminals during these actions.

The Twelfth Conference of American Armies took place in Nicaragua in August 1977 despite the communist propaganda and attacks. It is cause for legitimate pride to Nicaragua that it is the first Central American and Caribbean nation where this important inter-American event has been held, since this once again reaffirms the real integration and total unity of the American armies.

The factors which have led to high inflation rates and low growth in the developed countries since the beginning of this decade were present in 1977, thus affecting the prospects for world trade and the growth of prices in the developing countries with free economies.

Nevertheless, it is very satisfactory for me to be able to inform the Nicaraguan people and you, distinguished members of the National Congress, that Nicaragua's development level rose. Its Gross National Product increased by 5.9 percent in absolute terms, totaling 7,355,500,000 cordobas, and by 20 percent at current prices, totaling 15,691,200,000 cordobas.

This real growth of our economy was higher than that of the developed countries since the most they achieved was a 5.2 percent growth rate which was almost similar to that of the oil-producing countries--6 percent.

With these production levels, the per capita income rose to 6,749 cordobas or $964.16 which is close the $1,000 we hope to reach in 1978.

I am very proud to be able to report that this growth was basically due to the rise in investment, particularly public investment, which grew by 70 percent. In 1977 it amounted to 1,593,200,000 cordobas. Private investment grew 35 percent, totaling 2,186,800,000 cordobas.

This growth in public investment reflects my administration's intention of providing the country with the economic and social infrastructure to expand the facilities for production and services to the population so that more private investment will be spurred because it will be more profitable and more education, health and housing services will be provided for the benefit of all Nicaraguans.

Supporting the firmness of my political ideology, my administration continues increasing relations with other countries. I am convinced that solidarity and interdependency between nations are important factors in attaining higher development levels, as is my administration's steadfast intention.

We have attended international meetings, always supporting the cause of peace. This is one of the pillars of our international policy because we believe that in this manner we can avoid the danger of war and thereby contribute to the progress and well-being of our people.

We have zealously watched over the faithful compliance with the basic principles of international law, which determines our existence within the community of nations. We also practice nonintervention, the free determination of peoples, juridical equality, the use of peaceful means for the solution of conflicts which may emerge between states, as is determined within the UN and OAS charters and other international instruments. These instruments guarantee our existence as members of an international community. We thereby reiterate our faith in the ability of the inter-American juridical system to maintain peace and justice, exclude aggressions, promote solidarity among its members, strengthen cooperation and defend sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence.

Our government has signed the American declaration of rights and duties of man and the universal human rights declaration and we have faithfully observed them because I am fully convinced that by respecting the rights and fulfilling the duties of man one guarantees the peace and development of peoples. I personally participated in the inter-American conference in Bogota, Colombia, and in the UN conference held in Paris where these agreements, defining the duties and rights of man in Western society, were signed.

As always, and for the same reasons of our common heritage, my government continues its efforts to fully restore the integrationist process in Central America and has maintained close contacts with the Central American rulers discussing, within a framework of common ideals and interests, the most urgent problems affecting the region.

Following the treacherous attack launched last 12 October by a strongly armed subversive group against the San Carlos police garrison, which I have already mentioned, we immediately asked the Costa Rican Government to take respective measures included in existing agreements and international law to keep its territory from being used to launch criminal attacks against the Nicaraguan people.

Likewise, our representative at the OAS, in accordance with specific instructions from my administration, informed the organization's council of the situation. A special meeting was called for this purpose. In reply, the Costa Rican Government said that there had been steps to keep its territory from being used to prepare violent actions against Nicaragua which, in turn, asked the OAS council to investigate the truth of the situation and to determine the compliance on the part of the two countries with their respective obligations. In this respect, my government offered its full cooperation so the commission could carry out its task. The commission basically recommended that the two countries continue taking strict measures to control and prevent the training in their respective territories of subversive groups which threaten the peace, security and stability of other states.

We have participated in a great number of congresses and meetings and in the meetings of permanent international organizations of which we are a member in the belief that this is beneficial for the country's socioeconomic, scientific, cultural and technical development. Likewise, we have received delegations from other countries with which we have cultural and commercial ties, have given them all the facilities for the accomplishment of their missions and have extended our traditional hospitality to them.

I want to give the honorable National Congress my most heartfelt thanks for having, during my term, given the nation laws to promote social-political and economic development. During my inauguration I promised the country to develop its creative capacity and this is a commitment I have with the Nicaraguan people.

I want to especially mention the partial reforms to the nation's political constitution which you approved in your previous legislative period and which I hope will also be approved during the legislative session we are inaugurating today. These reforms reflect the aspirations of the Nicaraguan people. They establish that any political party can participate in the electoral process for the supreme authorities, thereby reaffirming our faith in representative democracy as a system of government.

If we live in peace, there is national confidence, more investments, more employment, more production and, in short, more progress. This is how we can continue to build the great country that all Nicaraguans desire.

[signed] A. Somoza

HAVANA CITES NEW YORK TIMES ON CARTER CHARGES

FL151650Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1635 GMT 15 Jun 78 FL

[Text] The New York TIMES asserts that the accusations of North American President James Carter against Cuba over the events in Zaire are unworthy of U.S. diplomacy, according to an AFP dispatch. In its latest edition, the New York city newspaper refers to last month's uprising in the Zairian province of Shaba pointing out that the Katangese have been seeking the fall of the Mobutu regime for 15 years.

By maintaining his bitter accusations against Cuba, Carter has merely shown dangerous emotions which even stronger presidents than he is were unable to control, it adds. The New York TIMES concludes by stating that it is not the first time that the White House has tried to exaggerate the Cuba case and that, in the last analysis, the North American position will have results as disastrous in Africa as on different occasions in the Caribbean.

CASTRO INTERVIEWED BY ITALIAN WEEKLY

AU151650Y Rome ANSA in English 1611 GMT 15 Jun 78 AU

[Text] Rome, June 15 (ANSA)--In an interview to be published in the next issue of the EPOCA weekly magazine, Cuban leader Fidel Castro revealed that he sent equipment, doctors and soldiers to aid Syria in its last conflict with Israel.

Castro said that one of the characteristics of the Cuban revolution is a great international spirit of support for revolutionary movements and liberation movements all over the world.

As a consequence, he continued, Cuba's support to the Vietnamese people ("we would have sent in men if we had been requested"), its efforts in favor of the Algerian revolution ("we sent in aid, weapons and men"), its aid to the people of Guinea-Bissau in their struggle against colonialism ("we offered material and military cooperation and arms"), its support for the independence of Angola where Cuban units intervened "to aid the people of that country retake territory in the hands of Zaire and South African troops" had all become a part of history.

For this reason Cuba has backed Ethiopia, he said.

In the interview, Castro dwelled on the problem of Eritrea.

He claimed that the Eritrean liberation movement was born as a revolutionary movement during the feudal tyranny of Haille Selassie, but was transformed into an instrument of reaction and imperialism with a view to destroying the Ethiopian revolution.

Today the leadership of the secessionist movement is controlled by two very reactionary countries--Saudi Arabia and Sudan, he said.

Castro said he was in favor of a correct solution to the problem of Eritrea based on self-determination and attributed the same desire to the Ethiopians themselves.

What cannot be countenanced, he said, was the idea of dismembering Ethiopia.

He called "shameless lies" charges that Cuba intervened in various parts of the world at the request of the Soviet Union.

At times Cubans and Soviets meet in the same part of the world to help a friend, he admitted.

Asked specifically about the Warsaw Pact invasion of Czechoslovakia, an intervention he justifies, Castro said that he could not change his positions and ideas to become more popular.

"The mission of a revolutionary is not to win popularity", he said.

MEXICAN PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION SIGNS COMMUNIQUE

FL151044Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1000 GMT 15 Jun 78 FL

[Text] The paper GRANMA publishes a joint communique on the visit to Cuba by a Mexican parliamentary delegation headed by Deputy Lic Rodolfo Gonzalez Guevara. The communique states the following:

At the invitation of Comrade Blas Roca Calderio, president of the Cuban National People's Government Assembly, a delegation from the United States of Mexico Chamber of Deputies, headed by the chairman of the Standing Committee, Deputy Lic Rodolfo Gonzalez Guevara, has paid a friendly visit from 10 to 14 June. The communique adds that the Mexican parliamentary delegation was received in special audience by the president of the Council of State, Commander in Chief Fidel Castro. The chairman of the delegation and its members hailed this honor. Present at the meeting were Comrade Raul Roa, vice president of the National Assembly, Deputies Aleida March and Roberto Bello and the ambassadors accredited to Cuba and Mexico, Ernesto Madero and Fernando Lopez Munio, respectively.

In another part, the joint communique states that during the course of the talks both delegations explained the nature and activities of their supreme legislative organs. The Mexican delegation explained the scope and contents of the recent political reform that is taking place in their country.

For his part, the chairman of the Cuban delegation, Comrade Blas Roca Calderio, expressed his thanks for this important explanation. He also explained the main points of the institutionalization process in our country which culminated in the constitution proclaimed on 24 February 1976.

The document is signed by Lic Rodolfo Gonzalez Guevara, chairman of the Standing Committee of the Mexican Chamber of Deputies, and Blas Roca Calderio, president of the National People's Government Assembly.

Meets Fidel

FL151148Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1045 GMT 15 Jun 78 FL

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, president of the councils of state and ministers, has received the Mexican Chamber of Deputies delegation which visited our country headed by Deputy Lic Rodolfo Gonzalez Guevara, member of the Mexican legislative body. Gonzalez Guevara, who is chairman of the Mexican Congress Permanent Committee and of the Chamber of Deputies Standing Committee, responded to an invitation by the National People's Government Assembly. At the meeting with Fidel and other members of the top Cuban state organ, the Mexican parliamentarians had a fraternal exchange which took place in a friendly atmosphere.

The Mexican delegation headed by Deputy Lic Rodolfo Gonzalez Guevara has left our country. It was bid farewell at the airport by Blas Roca, president of the National People's Government Assembly, and other leaders. At the airport hall Blas Roca and Gonzalez Guevara signed a joint communique.

UNESCO SOCIALIST COUNTRIES MEETING NEARS END

LF151118Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish GMT 15 Jun 78 FL

[Text] The 16th meeting of UNESCO's National Committees of Socialist Countries will end this afternoon following 4 days of sessions. Included among the topics discussed are a new resolution on UNESCO's contributions to peace, and support for human rights against colonialism, racism and apartheid. They also studied and discussed the possibilities of broadening the projects on Europe cooperation in the fields of education, science, culture and communication, which were proposed by the Hungarian National Committee. Lastly, they discussed the need to systematize socialist countries' cooperation and assistance to underdeveloped countries, keeping in mind what was discussed at the meeting in Sofia, Bulgaria, which was presented by the Cuban National Committee.

CASTRO BROTHERS NOMINATED FOR CTC CONGRESS DELEGATES

FL152310Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 15 Jun 78 FL

[Excerpt] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro and Army Gen Raul Castro, first and second secretaries, respectively, of the PCC Central Committee, were nominated candidates for delegate to the 14th Congress of the Central Organization of Cuban Workers [CTC] during the country's first assembly meeting held to discuss the draft agenda. The proposal was unanimously adopted by the participants in the meeting held at the machine shop of the Antonio Maceo sugar mill in the municipality of Cacocun, Holguin Province.

WFP DELEGATION ARRIVES FOR TALKS

FL151625Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 15 Jun 78 FL

[Text] (Garcon N. Bovel), executive director of the World Food Program [WFP], has arrived in the country at the head of a delegation which includes (P. Montanaro), chief of the Latin American and Caribbean Branch, (N. Vanega), regional adviser, and (J. Mostarela), WFP adviser. The WFP representatives are responding to an official invitation from the Cuban Government and will hold talks on the program our country is developing with this organization. On their arrival in this capital, they were received at Jose Marti International Airport by Hector Rodriguez Llompart, minister-president of the State Committee for Economic Cooperation.

Received By Malmierca

FL152200Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2120 GMT 15 Jun 78 FL

[Text] Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca today met with (Garcon Bovel), executive director of the World Food Program [WFP], who is paying an official visit to Cuba accompanied by a WFP delegations. During the delegation's visit, its members will examine the possibility of continuing the WFP-Cuba 760 program after it ends in October of this year.

BARBADOS

FORDE SAYS CARICOM MUST COPE WITH CRISIS

FL151435Y Bridgetown SUNDAY ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 11 Jun 78 p 1 FL

[Text] Attorney-General and Minister of External Affairs Mr. Henry Forde has described as a "non-sequitur" the assertion that restrictions of imports imposed by two major CARICOM states constitute the death of the Common Market.

Mr. Forde argued that the fact was that the community came into being just before the onset of the continuing world economic crisis in 1973-74 and its operations had always been affected by the adverse economic circumstances in which it was created.

Mr. Forde was of the view that all integration movements (among both developing and developed countries) go through cyclical periods of dynamism, stagnation and even crisis.

"Political decision-makers in an integration movement have to be able to cope constantly with stagnation and crisis and to seek to achieve the preservation or restoration of dynamism in the integration process. This is quite elementary and needs no elaboration," the external affairs minister said.

Mr. Forde was addressing the Chamber of Commerce president's dinner at the Windsor Hotel.

He said that member CARICOM states were now engaged in trying to have some of the restrictions on intra-regional trade removed and to this end were working out detailed mechanisms of co-operation in payments.

In addition to these efforts at greater liberalisation of intra-regional trade, they were also now considering ways and means of making the economies in the long-run more complementary and less competitive--in the interests of bringing about a greater degree of harmonisation of patterns of production.

Mr. Forde felt that Barbados could gain from the pursuit of this line of approach in three ways.

First, the national resources available here, Mr. Forde noted, have always been grossly underestimated.

"We have the sun, sea and sand necessary for a large scale tourist sector. But we have more than this--access to rich fisheries of our east coast; the materials for making cement and clay bricks; oil and natural gas; and adequate scope for agricultural diversification while maintaining our volume of traditional agricultural exports...." Mr. Forde said.

Second, he added, was the creation of regional linkages in production even in those areas where we do not have the natural resources.

Mr. Forde felt that we could undertake in Barbados "down stream" activities of the resource-based industries which can be produced in Guyana, Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago and other member CARICOM states.

Mr. Forde said that Barbados could also develop the skills of its labour force to substitute for any shortage of natural resources in the processes of national and regional development.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

RUMOR OF BALAGUER TRIP TO SPAIN DENIED

FL151023Y Santo Domingo Radio Mil Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 15 Jun 78 FL

[Text] A top leader of the Reformist Party yesterday said it is not true that President Balaguer is planning to go to a European country in the next few days. Dr Victor Gomez Berges added that sectors interested in increasing confusion among the Dominican people are responsible for the rumors.

It has been rumored that Balaguer would be going to Madrid on 20 June for medical treatment. Dr Victor Gomez Berges blamed the Dominican Revolutionary Party for the rumor on President Balaguer's trip abroad. They want to create more unrest than that already created in recent days, declared the Reformist Party leader.

GUYANA

GOVERNMENT URGED TO MAKE NEGOTIATIONS PUBLIC

FL151445Y Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 13 Jun 78 p 3 FL

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, Monday, (CANA)--The Catholic STANDARD newspaper has called on the government to make public the negotiations going on with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and talks leading towards a so-called Amazon pact.

The STANDARD said last weekend that the terms of the Amazon pact--expected to embrace Guyana and several other countries in the area--as well as those being discussed with the IMF for a sizeable loan, were being kept a closely guarded secret.

The paper argued however that the Guyanese people had a right to know what bearing such arrangements would have on the conduct of their internal affairs.

"Will the terms of these agreements help or hinder them in the exercise of their human rights?" recalling that the prime minister, Mr. Forbes Burnham, said at a press conference some weeks ago that the negotiations were continuing.

The paper insisted however that for such agencies as the IMF it was too often the case that the interests of the leading agencies were paramount.

For such agencies, the stability of the regime to which they lent, and the correct alignment of the regime among international power blocks were most important.

The paper said that because of such views, support from agencies such as the IMF was given often to "oppressive dictatorial regimes in whom they see the only hope of achieving the required stability in face harsh conditions they impose on the granting of loans.

"Dictators they feel are often required to keep the people from protesting too much when the conditions resulting from devaluation, removal of subsidies, retrenchment and the freezing of wages are experienced," the paper said.

"The people's rights are so often completely ignored," it added.

JAMAICA

CUBAN MEDICAL ASSISTANCE HIGHLY VALUED

FL152235Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2121 GMT 15 Jun 78 FL

[Text] Jamaica values very highly the assistance being given by Cuba to its health sector, which has been seriously affected in recent months by a mass emigration of [illegible]ians, stated Jamaican Health Vice Minister (Winston Davidson). The government and people are very grateful for the excellent services provided by Cuban physicians in Kingston and would like to see more of them arriving to help us offer better medical attention, (Davidson) told PRENSA LATINA. He explained that his opinion as a professional, which is free of political overtones, is that the Cuban health specialists have distinguished themselves internationally despite the difficult conditions under which they have worked, giving their best for the sake of helping their fellowmen.

(Davidson) praised the work of the first Cuban internationalist medical brigade which remained in Jamaica 1 year, offering their services at the Savanna la Mar General Hospital under the most difficult circumstances without adequate equipment and instruments. The work of the group, which cared for more than 90,000 patients, was termed as excellent by experts attached to the West Indies University, the University Hospital, the Kingston Hospital and other medical institutions in Jamaica.

The Jamaican health vice minister stated that Cuba's high level of medical education and quality of health services is among the best in the world. Closing, (Davidson) said: In the field of medicine, Cuba has as good a quality as that of the most advanced countries.

FIRST OF MONTHLY DEVALUATIONS IN EFFECT

FL151440Y Kingston DAILY GLEANER in English 9 Jun 78 pp 1, 15 FL

[Text] The first of the monthly "mini" devaluations which are to take place over the next 12 months, following the May 9 major devaluation of the Jamaican dollar, went into effect at midnight last night.

As from today the new rate of exchange for the Jamaican dollar in relation to the American dollar is J$1.00 to U.S. $0.63, or put the other way round, J$1.57 to U.S. $1.00.

A news release by the Bank of Jamaica yesterday afternoon announced the change in the exchange rate, in the following terms:

"The Hon. Eric O. Bell, minister of finance and planning, has today issued an order under the powers conferred on him by Section 11 of the Bank of Jamaica Act, changing the rate of exchange for the Jamaican dollar to J$1.00-US$0.635627 which corresponds to the rate of US$1.00-J$1.573250, effective from midnight Thursday, 8th June, 1978.

"This change in the official external value of the Jamaica dollar represents a small devaluation of 1.5 percent from the existing rate which became effective from midnight on May 9, 1978.

"This further devaluation of Jamaica's currency is in keeping with the announcement made by the minister in Parliament on 9th May to the effect that there would be further "mini" devaluations over the next 12 month period.

"Between now and May 1979, these small exchange rate adjustments will be made monthly to become effective as of midnight on the second Thursday of each month.

"The adjustments to be made in the months of July, August and September, 1978, as in the case of today's change, will each represent a devaluation of 1.5 percent from the previously existing rate.

"Thereafter, that is from October 1978 to May 1979 inclusive, the adjustments will each represent an exchange rate depreciation of 1 percent.

"The basic travel allowance will now be J$87,50 per person per annum."

URUGUAY

BRIEFS

SATELLITE STATION DEDICATED--The National Administration of Telecommunications [ANTEL] today dedicated a satellite Earth station in Manga. The ceremony was attended by Defense Minister Walter Ravenna and other high-ranking officials. [Montevideo Radio Cadena de Oro del Interior in Spanish 1600 GMT 1 Jun 78 PY]

REGROUPING OF DEPARTMENTS--The 19 Uruguayan departments will be grouped into 5 zones. This grouping is not a political reorganization of the departments, which will continue to have their present jurisdiction and borders. Its aim is to achieve better development and coordination. They will be grouped as follows: The coastal zone--Artigas, Salto, Paysandu and Rio Negro; the northern zone--Rivera, Cerro Largo, Tacuarembo and Durazno; the eastern zone--Treinta y Tres, Lavalleja, Maldonado and Rocha; the southern zone--Soriano, Colonia, San Jose, Flores and Florida; and the capital zone--Montevideo and Canelones. [Montevideo Radio Carve Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 6 Jun 78 PY]

GOVERNMENT CONCLAVE--The entire Uruguayan Government will be in Artigas from 19 to 21 Jun. The meeting will be attended by the entire executive branch, headed by the president, and by all armed forces commanders. For more than 50 hours the top Uruguayan Government officials will meet with local department officials and inaugurate several works. The official delegation will arrive early on 19 June and return to Montevideo on 21 June. [Text] [Montevideo Radio Carve Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 7 Jun 78 PY]

CAPTAINS PROMOTED--The executive branch has approved the promotions of Capt (Enrique Aviles) and Capt (Hugo de Barros) to rear admiral. [Montevideo Radio Carve Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 8 Jun 78 PY]

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